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Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper | R | London, Tuesday, December 23, 1997 | No. 35,711

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Coach Parcel

Panthers 18

The 'Old Boys' Of Westminster Remain Boys

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

LONDON — No one ever claimed that the House of Commons was a hotbed of maturity.

It is there, for instance, that Labour legislators regularly call, "Taxi! Taxi!" when Patrick Nicholls, a Tory once stripped of his driver's license because of drunk driving, rises to speak. It is where they greet Douglas Hogg with cries of "Moo!" in recognition of his service as agriculture minister during the worst of the so-called mad cow crisis.

Even so, Jane Griffiths, a newly elected Labour member of Parliament, was taken aback when she was addressing the House of Commons recently and several Tory legislators began cupping their hands in front of their chests, she said, as if "they were weighing melons."

The honorable gentlemen, as they are called in Parliament, were clearly using the universal gesture for breasts, Ms. Griffiths said, and she found it absolutely mystifying.

"I don't even think they're consciously being sexist," she said. "I think they behave like schoolboys because nobody's ever told them not to."

In fact, many men in Parliament seem to have a real problem with women's body parts. Clare Short, the secretary for international development, told a television program about women in Parliament recently that some of her male opponents begin giggling when, for instance, the subject of cervical cancer programs comes up.

They're "very public schoolboy, primitive," Ms. Short said. "Breasts, of course, just finish them off completely."

So, apparently, does any reference to birds, which, in British slang, means what "chicks" means in American slang.

"The speaker had to intervene the other day when a woman stood up during an agriculture debate on wild birds," said Candy Atherton, a Labour legislator. "It was appalling. I suddenly became aware that there was a load of noise and the Tory benches were falling about. Quite clearly, they thought it was hilarious that a woman was asking about birds. They were like juvenile schoolboys on a day out."

Parliament has always been Britain's ultimate old boy's club, and in the past, its members could get away with behaving like escapees from an all-male boarding school, which most of them were. But in last May's grand Labour sweep, an unparalleled 120 women —

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Rick Wilking/Reuters

President and Mrs. Clinton greeting American soldiers on Monday after they arrived in Tuzla.

Clinton, in Bosnia, Tells Leaders He Expects Them to Make Peace

The Associated Press

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — In a swift, tightly guarded visit, President Bill Clinton told the Bosnian people Monday that the shape of their future was up to them, "not the Americans, not the Europeans, not to anyone else," and he thanked U.S. troops for their "profoundly important" peacekeeping efforts.

"Without you, the warring parties would never have disengaged," he told cheering America soldiers.

In high spirits, the president reported to the troops that he had told the leaders of the three Bosnian ethnic groups that America would do "our dead-level best" to enforce the accords shaped in Dayton, Ohio, in 1995 to end 3½ years of warfare.

Mr. Clinton wore a leather jacket bearing the yellow and red triangle insignia of the Army's 1st Armored Division, a major part of the NATO-led peace force. He spoke inside a shed at Eagle Base, one of a number of U.S. camps here and the home to about 2,000 U.S. soldiers.

"I believe it is worthwhile and I hope you believe the effort in Bosnia is worthwhile," Mr. Clinton told the troops.

Former Senator Bob Dole accompanied him to Bosnia along with 11 members of Congress. Mr. Dole, Mr. Clinton's Republican opponent in the 1996 presidential election, has been a firm supporter of Mr. Clinton's decision to extend the U.S. military mission here beyond its June deadline.

"We don't like to keep anyone away from their families," Mr. Dole told the troops, "and hopefully, one of these days very soon, there will be a successful conclusion and these three countries can govern themselves and you can go home."

In Sarajevo, Mr. Clinton's speech was directed at Bosnia's people and its quarrelsome federation leaders, with whom he met privately.

To the people, he said: "You must make your desire for peace and the common future clear to the leaders of each group."

To the three members of Bosnia's presidency, he said: "Your responsibility is to turn the documents

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3 East Asia Nations Get 'Junk' Ratings

Kim Warns Korea Of Possible Layoffs

By Don Kirk
Special to the Herald Tribune

SEOUL — President-elect Kim Dae Jung dropped his long-standing opposition Monday to laying off South Korean workers in the battle for economic survival, warning the nation, "We could go bankrupt even tomorrow."

His comments came as Moody's Investors Service, the credit-rating concern, cut South Korea's credit rating to junk status, along with that of Indonesia and Thailand.

The news sent the South Korean currency, the won, plummeting against the dollar, and yields on the country's benchmark three-year bonds soared to a record of nearly 30 percent.

The rating change will increase the cost of borrowing for South Korea's already squeezed banks, which are desperately searching for dollars to pay off a foreign-currency debt of $25 billion due before the end of January.

The foreign debt that South Korea must repay in the next few months "may be greater than previously expected," Moody's said in explaining its move.

Mr. Kim looked upset as he appeared before television cameras after government officials briefed him on the severity of the country's economic condition.

"I have suffered all my life, but after being briefed I realized our economy is completely at the bottom," said Mr. Kim, a longtime leader of the political opposition who won election last week.

"Our economy is in such bad shape, we could go bankrupt even tomorrow," he said after talks with leaders of his political party, the National Congress for New Politics. "This is no exaggeration."

Along with the ratings cut, Moody's raised doubts about whether the $60 billion bailout led by the International Monetary Fund would be sufficient to rescue South Korea, saying that the Fund's support program "may have less margin for error."

So upset was Mr. Kim by the stark realities of South Korea's sagging economy that he publicly took back a suggestion he made during his presidential campaign for renegotiating the $60 billion bailout agreement pieced together by the IMF.

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Seoul, Bangkok And Jakarta Hit

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK — Asia's hardest hit economies — those of South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand — suffered a further blow Monday when Moody's Investor Services Inc. downgraded their credit rating to junk level.

In doing so, Moody's assigned to the three East Asian governments a rating normally reserved for high-risk corporate ventures.

The downgrade will make borrowing more expensive for the countries and for cash-strapped companies that operate in them. Analysts said it could also be a factor in prolonging and deepening the region's crisis.

The move, which affects an estimated $275 billion in debt held by the three countries, was the most sweeping ever made by the U.S.-based ratings agency, and it pummeled currencies and markets in the region. It raised fears that the increased cost of funds would send thousands of companies into bankruptcy.

Japan's Nikkei index slumped 3.4 percent, to a 30-month low of 14,799.40, followed by losses in Hong Kong and almost all regional exchanges apart from Manila and Jakarta.

The South Korean won closed at 1,710 to the U.S. dollar, down sharply from 1,550 last week. The Thai baht weakened in offshore trading and the Philippine peso also fell.

"Clearly people are more reluctant to put money into instruments with lower ratings, and there are institutional investors in the United States that are not allowed to invest in debt instruments that fall below a certain ranking," said Anthony Rawlinson, vice president of Asian equity at Caspian Securities.

David Hale, global economic strategist at Zurich Kemper Investments Inc., called the downgrades a belated response that merely confirmed the seriousness of the economic crisis afflicting the countries.

"What we really need to be looking at is Korea's attempt to sell $9 billion worth of bonds in January," Mr. Hale said. "If they succeed, we may see our way out of this crisis. If they don't, we may be visiting a debt-moratorium scenario."

That bond sale — like plans by the

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With Boeing Deal, Turkey Strikes Back at EU

State Airline Signs $2.5 Billion Contract for Planes and Suspends Its Purchases From Airbus

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — When the chairman of Turkish Airlines sealed a deal in Washington last week to buy as many as 49 Boeing airliners, he was reflecting a decision that was political as well as commercial.

The chairman, Cem Kozlu, signed a contract Friday that could be worth $2.5 billion. As he shook hands with a senior Boeing executive, Vice President Al Gore and Turkey's prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, beamed and applauded.

"Today's agreement is more than a simple commercial transaction," Mr. Yilmaz said afterward. "It's a $2 billion investment in the future of our two countries."

Turkish technicians had recommended the purchase of medium-range Boeing planes by the state-owned airline, but under normal circumstances it would have taken several months for the State Planning Office and the cabinet to approve the choice.

But with Turkey now angry at the European Union and eager to strengthen its relationship with the United States, the approvals were pushed through in a matter of days. At the same time, according to senior Turkish officials, the government told Turkish Airlines not to proceed with a planned purchase of long-range planes from the European consortium Airbus Industrie.

"The message was, 'Suspend your talks with Airbus,'" an official involved in the decision said.

At a summit meeting Dec. 13 and 14, the European Union deferred action on Turkey's application for membership, angering Mr. Yilmaz and others who had expected an encouraging sign. Later Mr. Yilmaz announced that Turkey was freezing political contacts with the Europeans.

The quick decision to buy Boeing planes and the suspension of talks with Airbus suggested that the breach between Turkey and Europe would have economic as well as political consequences.

Because Turkish Airlines already owns several long-range Airbus planes, it is still possible that a decision will be made to purchase more. But Boeing is now likely to be given a chance to bid on the order.

"The Turkish government's attitude has changed," a member of Mr. Yilmaz's entourage said.

"We're going to take it easy on this decision. We'll wait, take some time and see how relations develop."

In contrast to the way Turkey was treated at the European Union meeting, American officials rolled out what a Turkish newspaper called "a deep red carpet" for Mr. Yilmaz.

President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright expressed strong support for Turkey, describing it as a vital strategic ally.

Mrs. Albright said she would visit Turkey in the first half of 1998. She also suggested that the State Department official in charge of monitoring human-rights conditions, John Shattuck, be invited to Turkey. Mr. Yilmaz immediately issued the invitation.

Secretary of Commerce William Daley and Secretary of Energy Federico Pena also said they would visit Turkey soon. Members of the Turkish delegation said there were indications that Mr. Clinton also might come but that he had made no firm commitment.

During his meetings in Washington, Mr. Yilmaz repeatedly expressed disappointment with what he described as the European Union's insulting rejection of Turkey's application.

"I told them that I understand all our shortcomings and what's required of us, whether it's about human rights, relations with Greece or anything else, and that we would work on them," Mr. Yilmaz told Mrs. Albright, according to an official who was present. "But even with that, they were not ready to move forward."

In recent days, several European leaders have expressed dismay at Turkey's reaction and hope that relations can be repaired. Because the decision by the European Union was made at a summit meeting, however, it cannot be changed or adjusted until at least the next such meeting, scheduled for June in Britain.

Share Prices Plunge Again in Tokyo

Toru Yamanaka/Agence France-Presse

A distressed dealer at the Tokyo Stock Exchange watching stock prices Monday as the Nikkei index plunged 3.37 percent. Page 13.

These Games Just Might Be Good for You

Late Holiday Surprise! Method to the Madness on the Computer Screen

By Steve Lohr
New York Times Service

REDMOND, Washington — Inside a small room, the human guinea pig is picking up the pace, pointing and clicking. She hunches closer to the computer screen, moving the mouse quickly, up, down, left, left again.

Watching her from behind a one-way mirror, in a room next to the computer laboratory, Alexey Pajitnov smiles with satisfaction and pumps a fist in the air. "She's hooked," he declared.

This is the moment that game designers like Mr. Pajitnov, a bearded, genial 42-year-old at Microsoft Corp., labor endlessly to achieve: the moment when curiosity turns to compulsion. It is an elusive goal that, according to Mr. Pajitnov, involves creating a game with an "emotional rhythm" that moves a player across a psychic border, alternating a sense of achievement and loss, pleasure and disappointment.

"You must tease the nerves," he explained.

Searching for the ingredients of compulsion remains the Holy Grail of the $4-billion-a-year business of computer and video games. It is a search that has become far more respectable in the last few years as a growing body of research suggests that playing computer games may actually be good for young minds — a message that parents may find reassuring during the peak holiday sales season for the games.

Computer and video games, researchers say, can help children develop their skills of visualization, concentration and problem-solving, as well as help them acquire a fluency in technology. Some experts even point to the games as a possible contributing factor in the steady rise in IQ scores in developed nations.

"The same skills used in computer games are basic technology literacy skills," said Patricia Greenfield, a professor of psychology at the University of California at Los Angeles. "Those skills are extremely important in the modern world."

William Winn, director of the Learning Center at the Human Interface Technology Laboratory of the University of Washington, has found that young people "internalize" the ability to visualize the images they create on computers, often enhancing their ability to visualize people and events when they read.

In psychology, some academics have long been studying what is called flow, a state of deep concentration, total absorption and intellectual peak performance that is the mental equivalent of what athletes describe as being in the "zone." Research on flow has tended to focus on serious brain work like playing chess and software programming.

"But there is no question that you can experience flow by becoming immersed in computer games," said Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, a professor of psychology and education at the University of Chicago.

Today, there are still concerns about children being allowed to play violent adult games or spending endless hours

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AGENDA

Factions Sign Plan For Peace in Somalia

CAIRO (AP) — After more than a month of talks in Egypt, Somali factions signed a power-sharing agreement Monday that could lead to a national government in the war-ravaged African nation.

Egyptian state radio said the declaration called for forming a transitional government and preparing for a national reconciliation conference early next year.

The document was signed by the two most powerful faction leaders, Hussein Mohammed Aidid and Mohammed Ali Mahdi.

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The IHT on-line www.iht.com

The Dollar

New York	Monday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.7815	1.7754
Pound	1.6635	1.6705
Yen	130.125	129.28
FF	5.959	5.9485

The Dow

	Monday close	previous close
+63.02	7819.31	7756.29

S&P 500

change	Monday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
+6.93	953.71	946.78

South Koreans Release 2 Jailed Ex-Presidents

By David Holley
Los Angeles Times Service

SEOUL — Two former presidents, Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, were freed from prison Monday after the cabinet approved a pardon issued by President Kim Young Sam.

The decision to release Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, who have been imprisoned since 1995 for mutiny, treason and bribery, was reached jointly by President Kim and his newly elected successor, Kim Dae Jung, at a meeting Saturday at the presidential Blue House.

"I deeply apologize to the people for the anxiety and concern I and my family caused, and I thank the people for their warm encouragement and love shown to me during the past two years," Mr. Chun said at the gate of Anyang Detention Center after his release.

Mr. Roh said after his release from Seoul Detention Center, "I hope the president-elect will lead the people to rebuild our economy and to eliminate regional and class disputes, and I am sure he will succeed in this."

Mr. Chun, 66, and Mr. Roh, 65, are symbols of the military dictatorships that for nearly three decades crushed dissent in South Korea. Because the two Kims led the opposition fight against military rule, even a superficial reconciliation among the four men could do much to mend this nation's emotional wounds and regional antagonisms.

[About 20 women from a leading human-rights group, Mingahyup, tried to stop Mr. Chun's car from leaving the prison but were restrained by the police, Reuters reported.

[Later, at a university near the homes of the two former presidents, 300 students shouting "No freedom to Chun and Roh!" clashed with riot police. The Associated Press reported that the police, holding plastic shields interlocked in front of them and occasionally firing

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Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	1.000 BD	Malta	55 c
Cyprus	C £ 1.00	Nigeria	12600 Naira
Denmark	14.00 DKr	Oman	1.250 OR
Finland	12.00 FM	Qatar	10.00 QR
Gibraltar	£ 0.85	Rep. Ireland	IR £ 1.00
Great Britain	£ 0.90	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
Egypt	RE 5.50	S. Africa	R12 + VAT
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Kenya	K. SH. 160	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$ 1.20
Kuwait	700 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zm.$40.00

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He's Soft, He's Tough, He's Steiff / **Survivor of the Cold, Cruel World Market**

Who's King of Teddy Bears? The Inventor Has It All Sewed Up

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

GIENGEN, Germany — Paying a couple of hundred dollars for a teddy bear that neither walks nor talks hardly seems like a Christmas bargain. And yet, in what must be one of the most unlikely success stories in toy history, a small stuffed animal company in southern Germany has found an enduring bull market for bears, consistently commanding plush prices both in toy stores and on the auction block — hundred of thousands of dollars at Christie's and Sotheby's, for example.

Margarete Steiff GmbH, founded 120 years ago in this rustic town with a peaceful river, has managed to thrive despite competition from cheap-wage Asian sewing shops that mass produce stuffed animals at a fraction of Steiff's steep union-imposed German labor costs.

Even as disappointing retail sales dampen holiday spirits across much of the European Continent, Steiff is ending a year that saw the production of its high-quality high-price teddy bears rise nearly 30 percent, to 450,000 teddies from 350,000 in 1996. Full-year 1997 sales have risen over 6 percent and will exceed 100 million Deutsche marks ($56 million) for the first time in the company's celebrated history, said its chairman, Bernard Roesner.

"We had an exceptionally good year," said Mr. Roesner, whose family-owned company takes credit for stuffing and stitching the world's first factory-made teddy bear in 1902. New orders outpace sales, keeping Steiff's staff of 1,000 at capacity, he said.

BECAUSE STEIFF insists on old-world labor-intensive means of production — sewing on noses by hand, coiffing the mohair and polishing each eye — global competition theoretically should have beaten the stuffing out of Steiff years ago.

The cheapest and smallest Steiff teddy fetches 69 DM. From there, prices run as high as 900 DM for limited edition replica Steiff bears that match turn-of-the-century originals down to the wood-shaved stuffing.

Vintage Steiff's bears have commanded the 10 highest teddy prices ever attained at public auction. The record sale price for a teddy bear was set in December 1994 for a 1904 Steiff bear sold to a Japanese buyer at Christie's in London for 270,000 DM. Last July at a Christie's auction, a 70-year-old Steiff bear came in second at 189,550 DM.

Such feats are all the more impressive in a year when youngsters around the world rushed to buy millions of beeping egg-shaped Tamagotchi "dolls" with microchips, making hand-sewn teddy bears look like mute relics from the pre-digital age.

"The virtual world has a poverty of feeling and emotion. Children, though, live in a world brimming with feeling and emotion," Mr. Roesner said. "Here lies a big opportunity for a company like Steiff."

For decades, child psychologists, sociologists, serious collectors and even a raft of teddy bear journals have studied what they call the teddy bear phenomenon. Helping explain why both children and adults covet their bears, universities in Munich and Kiel have done seminars on the theme.

But as Christopher Robin Milne and his "silly old bear" have shown, one does not need a Ph.D. to recognize the appeal of a roly-poly creature with stumpy outstretched arms. To some children, they become companions not easily forgotten, even beyond childhood.

Steiff teddy bears, left to right, from 1904, 1920, 1950 and 1990 have been born of old-world labor-intensive means of production: sewing on noses by hand, coiffing the mohair, polishing each eye.

"Why the Teddy Has a Soul" is the title of a scholarly 11-page article this year in the German science magazine GEO. Alongside security blankets and pacifiers, they are what psychologists call "comfort aids" that calm periods of tension but also can induce trauma when lost. Like Calvin and his comic-strip relationship to his stuffed tiger, Hobbes, they become a fast source of requited love.

RECOGNIZING THEIR potency, policemen in cities like Miami and Seattle put teddies, albeit less costly ones, in squad cars to pacify shocked children. Hospitals use them for therapy. In the 1991 Gulf War, social activists fought their way through a trade embargo until a shipment of 2,000 teddies were sent to war-stricken children in Iraq.

Kerry Taylor, in-house teddy bear expert at Sotheby's in London who conducts several teddy auctions each year, has spent 15 years collecting Steiff bears and their stories. Steiff bears accompanied German soldiers in their jacket pockets into battle and prison camps, she said.

Even during wars and stock market crashes, Sotheby's always sells all of its teddy bears, said Ms. Taylor. "The same cannot be said of Impressionist paintings," she said.

"Prices are high, but the cost is amortized because people save them their whole lives or buy them as investments," said Gabriele Schoening, a Steiff spokeswoman. "What we offer is emotion and the Steiff myth."

Ramping up teddy bear output was a natural strategy in 1997, the 150th anniversary of the company's founder, "Gretchen" Steiff. The company recognized a chance to stitch together a marketing strategy based on the company's rags-to-riches legend, helping it expand in North America and Asia.

CRIPPLED BY polio from childhood, Gretchen Steiff began a family sewing business from a wheelchair. In 1903, she won her first export order to the United States — for 3,000 teddies sold to a Manhattan wholesaler — just in time for President Theodore Roosevelt to launch the teddy bear boom by sparing the life of a bear cub on a hunting trip, making Teddy Roosevelt a hero and the stuffed bear his eponymous mascot.

It is critical for Steiff to expand gingerly, resisting the impulse to ratchet output to meet full demand, experts in the auction business say. The company can risk eroding value for collectors and upsetting collectors, leaving the Steiff image vulnerable.

Steiff's hallmarks are durability, craftsmanship and a brass button in the left ear — a custom begun in 1904 to deter black-market copies.

Piggybacking on demand for its teddies, the company long ago also expanded into stuffed tigers, piggies, kittens and owls.

It operates an entire division to make mechanized department store displays for Christmas, which appear in Europe and the United States. But the company's bears continue to account for one-third of its 1.5 million annual plush toy output.

"As long as we promote our exports, the teddy bear will always have a major share for us," Mr. Roesner said. "Steiff invented the teddy bear and without teddy bears, it is very very tough to crack new markets."

At a Sotheby's auction in late November, a deformed 1910 Steiff bear fetched nearly £3,000 ($5,000) despite a hunched back because a child slept on it. As Ms. Taylor recalled, "He was bald in one spot where a little hand had held him for years."

Another Case Of Avian Flu Is Suspected in Hong Kong

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

HONG KONG — A 6-year-old boy has been hospitalized with a suspected case of avian flu, bringing to 11 the total number of people suspected or confirmed to have been infected with the mysterious influenza.

Three of the victims have died.

Government health officials and international flu experts have tried to ease public panic here, insisting that the disease is hard to catch and that the relatively small number of cases does not amount to an epidemic. But they also say that much about the disease remains unknown, such as how it initially spread from birds to humans, and whether human-to-human contact is possible.

Hong Kong consumers are staying away from chicken, leading to a 70 percent drop in poultry sales, even though doctors insist that cooked poultry is safe.

The virus, with the scientific name of H5N1, is thought to be spread by handling infected birds and chickens. Many Hong Kongers like to buy chickens live in city markets. The avian flu is also taking its toll on Hong Kong's battered tourism industry, which was already reeling from a huge drop-off in visitors this year caused by the regional economic crisis, a debilitating smog that closed down several regional airports and what tourism officials have described as "post-handover burnout," with many potential tourists staying away since the former British colony was handed back to China on July 1.

Officials said they had heard reports of tourists' canceling flights because of the flu. The World Health Organization has said there is no need to restrict travel to Hong Kong because of the virus.

Some local politicians have begun calling this week for the government to increase its screening of all flu patients, to better detect who might be infected with the virus, and representatives of the territory's chicken farmers lobbied the government to take more action to convince the public that eating chicken was still safe.

Hong Kong has about 60 chicken farms, with 1.25 million birds, but most poultry here is imported from mainland China. Legislators were asking the government Monday to request more information from China about the incidence of avian flu among mainland flocks.

The suspected and confirmed avian flu cases so far include seven children under 6, a teenager, and three adults.

Of those, a 3-year-old boy, a 54-year-old man and a 13-year-old girl have died.

The girl died last weekend, after more than three weeks in a hospital, and doctors said by the time she had been admitted it was too late for drug treatment.

Avian flu symptoms are similar to normal flu viruses — fever and chills, sore throats and muscle aches.

International experts who have come here to study the virus said the number of new cases might rise because of stepped up surveillance for the virus at area hospitals.

Killings by Hutu Frustrate Hope of Nation-Building in Rwanda

By James C. McKinley Jr.
New York Times Service

KIGALI, Rwanda — The Hutu guerrillas who massacred more than 270 Tutsi refugees in Rwanda recently do not yet seem to have the organization, arms or manpower to defeat the government's Tutsi-led army or to take over this hilly capital, military experts in the region say.

But it hardly matters. In the long run, diplomats say, the terrorist war by Hutu militants in Rwanda's northwest will eat at the country like a cancer.

The violence could make it impossible for what is essentially a military government controlled by the Tutsi minority to heal the rift with the Hutu majority, rebuild the economy and move the nation toward democracy.

"Everything that means political progress is paralyzed because of the insecurity," a diplomat in Kigali said. "That's the cornerstone. As long as they don't have this situation controlled in the north, there is no way they can achieve anything else."

Hutu militants, who advocate the wiping out of the minority Tutsi, raided the refugee camp at Mudende shortly before midnight Dec. 10, leaving at least 271 people dead in violence that echoed the 1994 killing frenzy here, in which more than a half million Tutsi died.

The killings were just the latest atrocity in a guerrilla conflict that has claimed at least 6,000 lives since May. In a sense, the massacre also marked the continuation of the Rwandan civil war that started in 1990.

That conflict was interrupted in 1994 when the Rwandan Patriotic Front — a Tutsi rebel army — seized the country, ended the massacres of Tutsi civilians and pushed tens of thousands of Hutu soldiers and militiamen into exile in Congo. They lived there for two years in United Nations refugee camps near the border along with a million other Hutu refugees.

After Laurent Kabila's successful takeover of Congo, the former Zaire, earlier this year, those militants began to drift home along with masses of innocent refugees. The closing of the

NEWS ANALYSIS

camps was not an accident. The Tutsi-led military in Rwanda had backed Mr. Kabila's revolt in an effort to destroy the militants, whom the government here blamed not only for the massacres but also for launching raids into Rwanda.

Human-rights groups have asserted that the Tutsi soldiers in Mr. Kabila's army, along with their Rwandan allies, also massacred thousands of innocent Hutu refugees during the war.

By backing Mr. Kabila's rebellion, the Tutsi leaders in Kigali hoped to end the conflict between Hutu and Tutsi once and for all, taking away the rear bases for the Hutu guerrillas, Rwandan defense officials have said. But their plan has so far failed, diplomats say.

Since Mr. Kabila took power in Congo, the guerrilla conflict has escalated in northwest Rwanda. In recent months, armed Hutu bands have been attacking more targets, in greater numbers and during the daylight.

For several reasons the Rwandan Army, once considered nearly invincible against the Hutu forces, has not been able to stop the carnage, despite having allies on the other side of the Congolese border.

To begin with, Mr. Kabila's army has failed to destroy the militants' rear bases in the Masisi and Rutshuru regions of Congo, where hundreds of thousands of ethnic Hutu live. The Hutu militants appear to be able to cross the mountainous border, which is a national park and the last home of the mountain gorilla, with little trouble, conservationists in Congo say.

Perhaps more important, the Rwandan Patriotic Front is not the fighting force it was when it seized the country three years ago, diplomats say. While it has been expanded from 15,000 to 40,000 troops, thousands of experienced fighters have retired.

The new recruits are not as well trained as the seasoned bush fighters who invaded Rwanda in 1990 and started the civil war, diplomats say. What's more, nearly a third of the Tutsi in the army are under 18.

They have been at war for more than a year, slogging through hostile territory in Rwanda or in Congo, fighting against a brutal enemy that moves at night and has no qualms about killing innocent Tutsi families. A result is a tired, angry force that is hard to control.

Human-rights monitors estimate that thousands of unarmed Hutu civilians have been killed by these soldiers during counterinsurgency campaigns in the northwest this year. These abuses have only swelled the ranks of the Hutu guerrillas.

To make matters harder for the army, the guerrillas enjoy popular support in the northwest. In the 19th century the region was a Hutu kingdom that refused to be conquered by the Tutsi kings in the southeast of the country.

Since the country gained independence in 1962, the northwest was the political stronghold of the ruling Hutu elite and the recruiting ground for the army. Many of the current guerrillas have family members in the region, local officials say.

Not only does the local population feed and hide the guerrillas — 85 percent of Rwandans are Hutu — but they also sometimes join in the attacks, diplomats and military officials say.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Road Go-Slow in Italy

ROME (AFP) — Italy's main roads into France and Austria, as well as highways around several of its major cities, will be clogged Tuesday by truckers staging a go-slow protest over government plans to cut their pensions.

"The demonstration will be limited to a few hours during the morning so as not to create difficulties for road-users," a union spokesman said Monday.

The Mont Blanc tunnel at the French border will be targeted between 9 A.M. and 11 A.M., as will the national road from Brennero to the Austrian frontier. Highways between Milan and Varese and Como and Chiasso will be jammed by slow-moving trucks.

Airport Smoking Ban

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — Frankfurt's international airport has announced a ban on smoking in most of its passenger areas as of Jan. 1.

The ban will cover 90 percent of the airport's terminal complex, confining smokers to a few designated areas.

There are few limits on smokers in Germany.

European Union regulators gave approval Monday to a joint venture in which Ireland's state-owned airport operator, Aer Rianta International, and Germany's Hochtief Projektentwicklung will each take a 50 percent stake in Dusseldorf Airport. *(AP)*

WEATHER

Europe

	Today High	Today Low W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Algarve	18/64	10/50 s	18/66	13/55 s
Amsterdam	7/44	6/43 c	11/52	9/48 c
Andorra	3/37	-1/31 sh	2/35	-8/22 f
Athens	14/57	9/48 pc	13/55	8/46 c
Barcelona	13/55	4/39 pc	13/55	8/46 pc
Belgrade	6/43	-1/31 c	3/37	-3/27 pc
Berlin	3/37	1/34 c	6/43	5/41 c
Brussels	7/44	6/43 c	11/52	9/48 c
Budapest	5/41	1/34 sh	3/37	1/34 c
Copenhagen	3/37	1/34 sn	5/41	4/39 sh
Costa Del Sol	17/62	9/48 pc	19/66	12/53 s
Dublin	12/53	11/52 r	11/52	5/41 sh
Edinburgh	9/48	8/46 sh	9/43	3/37 pc
Florence	9/48	6/43 sh	8/46	3/37 c
Frankfurt	3/37	-1/31 c	4/39	3/37 c
Geneva	4/39	-1/31 r	6/43	3/37 pc
Helsinki	1/34	-3/27 c	3/35	-3/27 c
Istanbul	10/50	6/43 r	9/46	2/35 sh
Kiev	-1/31	-4/25 sn	-2/28	-7/20 sf
Las Palmas	23/73	17/62 s	23/73	19/66 s
Lisbon	15/59	9/48 pc	16/61	11/52 pc
London	10/50	9/48 pc	14/57	10/50 sh
Madrid	11/52	2/35 pc	13/55	4/39 pc
Mallorca	18/64	4/39 pc	18/66	7/44 s
Milan	6/43	1/34 c	8/46	3/37 pc
Moscow	-4/25	-9/16 c	-6/22	-9/16 c
Munich	3/37	-3/27 c	2/35	-1/31 c
Nice	12/53	6/43 r	15/59	7/44 pc
Oslo	3/37	-3/27 sn	0/32	-1/31 sn
Paris	8/46	4/39 pc	10/50	7/44 c
Prague	3/37	-3/27 c	3/37	1/34 c
Reykjavik	7/44	4/39 r	7/44	3/37 pc
Riga	1/34	-6/29 c	1/34	-8/29 sn
Rome	13/55	9/48 pc	10/50	8/46 r
St. Petersburg	-1/31	-4/25 c	1/34	-3/27 pc
Stockholm	2/35	-2/28 c	2/35	1/34 pc
Strasbourg	4/39	2/35 sh	7/44	4/39 c
Tallinn	1/34	-8/29 c	2/35	-1/31 c
Tbilisi	8/46	4/39 sh	8/46	2/35 r
Venice	8/43	2/35 c	8/43	1/34 pc
Vienna	8/43	0/32 c	4/39	1/34 c
Warsaw	1/34	-2/28 c	0/32	-2/28 sn
Zurich	3/37	1/34 sn	4/39	3/37 c

Middle East

Abu Dhabi	24/75	15/59 s	25/77	17/62 pc
Beirut	18/64	14/57 sh	17/62	11/52 c
Cairo	17/62	8/46 s	17/62	6/43 pc
Damascus	12/53	4/39 sh	13/55	4/39 c
Jerusalem	13/55	5/41 pc	10/50	5/41 c
Luxor	25/77	4/39 s	25/77	5/41 s
Riyadh	21/70	12/53 s	26/77	12/53 s

Africa

Algiers	18/61	7/44 r	15/59	7/44 pc
Cape Town	23/84	19/66 s	22/71	13/55 pc
Casablanca	19/64	10/50 s	23/73	14/57 s
Harare	25/70	9/48 pc	27/80	9/48 pc
Lagos	32/89	23/73 pc	32/89	23/73 pc
Nairobi	27/80	13/55 c	27/80	13/55 c
Tunis	17/62	13/55 sh	14/57	8/46 c

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Jetstream — Unseasonably Cold — Unseasonably Mild — Heavy Rain — Heavy Snow

North America
Holiday travel will definitely be hampered by the weather in many areas. Heavy snow is likely to fall from Detroit and Buffalo northeast into Montreal. Heavy rain will fall along the Gulf coast from Houston to New Orleans. Cold with good skiing in the West.

Europe
A strong Atlantic storm will slow flights into the British Isles and Scandinavia due to high winds and rain. Fast travel for Paris and Madrid with sunshine and mild weather. Low clouds will shroud much of northern and central Europe, but travel will not be delayed.

Asia
Travel to Asia should be unhampered by any major storms. Very cold air will be plunging south from Siberia so China will be turning colder. Japan will continue to be mild with plenty of sunshine forecast for the holidays. The major weather systems are forecast for the tropics.

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, Hca, W-Weather.

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Asia

	Today High	Today Low W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Almaty	-6/22	-16/0 sn	-7/20	-11/13 s
Bali	34/93	23/71 pc	33/91	23/71 pc
Bangkok	32/89	21/70 pc	31/88	20/68 pc
Beijing	7/44	-2/29 pc	8/46	0/32 s
Bombay	29/84	19/66 s	29/84	17/62 s
Calcutta	25/77	12/53 s	23/73	12/53 pc
Chiang Mai	29/84	19/61 pc	28/82	14/57 pc
Colombo	30/86	21/70 pc	29/84	22/71 pc
Hanoi	19/66	14/57 sh	20/68	16/64 c
Ho Chi Minh	33/91	22/71 pc	32/89	22/71 pc
Hong Kong	19/66	14/57 c	19/66	16/61 c
Islamabad	18/64	2/35 pc	19/66	3/37 s
Jakarta	29/84	24/75 t	29/84	23/73 t
Karachi	27/80	13/55 s	28/79	11/52 sf
K. Lumpur	27/80	24/75 r	28/82	24/75 r
K. Kinabalu	28/82	24/75 t	26/79	23/73 t
Manila	31/88	20/68 s	29/84	19/66 pc
New Delhi	13/55	5/41 pc	19/66	4/39 pc
Phnom Penh	32/89	22/71 pc	30/86	22/71 pc
Phuket	32/89	21/70 pc	31/88	20/68 pc
Rangoon	31/88	18/61 s	29/84	18/61 s
Seoul	4/39	-6/22 pc	3/37	-5/24 pc
Shanghai	13/55	4/39 c	11/52	4/39 pc
Singapore	29/84	23/73 sh	30/86	23/73 pc
Taipei	19/66	14/57 c	19/66	14/57 pc
Tokyo	7/44	3/37 r	9/48	4/39 pc
Vientiane	27/80	14/57 pc	29/84	14/57 pc

North America

Anchorage	-2/29	-9/16 sn	-4/25	-11/13 c
Atlanta	16/61	9/48 r	14/57	3/37 sh
Boston	2/37	-1/31 sn	7/44	1/34 pc
Chicago	2/35	-6/22 pc	2/35	-4/25 c
Dallas	10/50	2/35 t	6/43	-2/28 c
Denver	2/35	-8/18 pc	1/34	-11/13 c
Detroit	4/39	-3/27 c	2/35	-4/25 sn
Honolulu	25/77	17/62 c	26/79	19/66 pc
Houston	20/68	11/52 sh	14/57	1/34 pc
Los Angeles	17/62	2/35 s	14/57	6/46 sh
Miami	26/82	20/68 pc	23/84	18/66 pc
Minneapolis	-0/29	-9/16 pc	0/32	-8/18 pc
Montreal	-3/29	-8/22 sf	1/34	-3/27 pc
Nassau	29/82	21/70 pc	29/82	21/70 pc
New York	9/48	2/35 r	7/44	2/35 sh
Orlando	27/80	17/62 c	27/80	14/57 c
Phoenix	17/62	4/39 s	14/57	4/39 pc
San Fran.	13/55	6/43 pc	10/50	4/39 r
Seattle	6/43	1/34 c	8/46	3/37 pc
Toronto	3/37	-7/20 sf	6/43	-1/31 pc
Vancouver	4/39	1/34 sh	9/48	5/41 pc
Washington	10/50	3/37 c	10/50	3/37 sh

Latin America

Buenos Aires	26/79	14/57 pc	27/80	17/62 pc
Caracas	29/82	18/64 s	27/80	18/66 pc
Lima	26/82	21/70 pc	27/80	21/70 pc
Mexico City	23/73	7/44 pc	23/73	7/44 pc
Rio de Janeiro	30/86	24/75 pc	29/84	24/75 pc
Santiago	30/86	6/43 s	28/82	8/46 s

Oceania

Auckland	23/73	17/62 sh	24/75	17/62 pc
Sydney	29/77	20/68 pc	24/75	17/62 c

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Fresh Case of 'Mad Cow' in France

Reuters

RENNES, France — France on Monday reported a new case of "mad cow" disease, the country's 31st since 1990.

The cow, in a herd in Plonevez du Faou, Brittany, was born in 1992, two years after a ban was imposed on cattle feed containing ground animal parts, an Agriculture Ministry official said.

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GERMANY	DEM	152	72	60%
GREAT BRITAIN	£	47	22	53%
HONG KONG	HK$	676	284	57%
ITALY	ITL	145,600	58,000	60%
JAPAN	¥	26,000	12,150	53%
MALAYSIA	RM	182	101	44%
NETHERLANDS	NLG	195	78	60%
NORWAY	NOK	832	360	53%
SINGAPORE	S$	146	82	43%
SPAIN	PTAS	11,700	5,000	57%
SWEDEN	SEK	832	350	58%
SWITZERLAND	CHF	166	66	60%
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هكذا من الأصل

THE AMERICAS

U.S. Extradition Law Goes on Trial

Parretti Case Tests Constitutional Limits of Arrest and Detention

By Lis Wiehl
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court here has heard arguments in a case that could force the government to renegotiate most of its international extradition treaties and abandon its century-old practices for arresting and detaining fugitives found in the United States.

The case, which legal experts say will land in the Supreme Court next year, is already complicating the government's ability to extradite international fugitives, and is straining the State Department's relations with its extradition treaty partners.

At issue in the case, which is known as *Giancarlo Parretti vs. United States*, is a distinctive feature of extradition law: the government's ability to obtain an arrest warrant for a fugitive found in the United States without showing "probable cause" to believe the fugitive committed a crime abroad.

By contrast, when the government seeks an arrest warrant in a domestic criminal case, it must offer affidavits or other documents from which a court can find probable cause to believe that the person whose arrest is sought committed the crime charged.

The justification for allowing courts to issue extradition arrest warrants without documentary evidence has been the need to arrest fugitives immediately, without losing the weeks it can take for the foreign government to assemble, translate and transmit the documents.

As a result, the government has been able to obtain extradition arrest warrants by filing a complaint specifying only that the fugitive is charged abroad with an offense covered by an extradition treaty.

In May, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, ruling in the Parretti case, held that this practice violated the probable-cause requirement of the Fourth Amendment. The government asked an 11-judge panel last week to review the ruling.

The Parretti case began in 1995, when federal agents entered the offices of a Los Angeles law firm with an arrest warrant for Mr. Parretti, an Italian financier who was there to attend a deposition in a lawsuit stemming from his highly leveraged purchase of MGM-United Artists, the entertainment conglomerate. The agents arrested Mr. Parretti so that he could be held pending a request by France for his extradition to face fraud charges there.

To get the arrest warrant for Mr. Parretti, the government furnished a federal magistrate with a document summarizing the charges against him in France.

At a detention hearing, Mr. Parretti argued that his arrest violated the Fourth Amendment because the warrant had not been supported by probable cause. He also moved for release on bail. Magistrate Judge Joseph Reichmann rejected both arguments and ordered Mr. Parretti detained pending the extradition proceedings.

After Mr. Parretti challenged that ruling, the three-judge appellate panel released him on bond while it reviewed the matter. Shortly after his release, he skipped bail. In May, the panel ruled in his favor.

At last Thursday's hearing, several judges asked the government lawyer arguing the case to defend the practice of obtaining arrest warrants. "How can the government justify throwing someone in jail without any showing of any kind?" Judge Stephen Reinhardt asked.

Nora Manella, the U.S. attorney in Los Angeles and the lawyer who argued the case for the government, said the urgency of complying with extradition treaties was often incompatible with the lengthy process of obtaining documentary evidence to support a probable cause showing.

"The three-judge appellate panel has imposed unprecedented and unwarranted barriers on extradition which will impede our apprehension of fleeing fugitives," she said.

More broadly, legal experts said, the case calls into question whether fugitives in extradition cases should continue to be accorded fewer constitutional protections than defendants in domestic criminal cases.

Because courts have taken the view that extradition proceedings are not criminal in nature, they have traditionally declined to give international fugitives constitutional protections that could delay extradition.

In some quarters, the Parretti decision has been welcomed as a long-overdue step toward modernizing the arcane and sometimes archaic law of international extradition.

CHEERS — Former Senator Bob Dole, left, his wife, Elizabeth, and President Bill Clinton on their way to Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, on Monday. Mr. Dole told the troops that he had made the trip to support the president and that "I believe it is worthwhile, and I hope you believe the effort in Bosnia is worthwhile."

Snuff Out the Old, Breathe In the New?

Foes of California's Bar-Smoking Ban Would Rather Fight Than Ditch

By Dan Morain
Los Angeles Times Service

SACRAMENTO, California — If all goes according to law, as the clock strikes midnight on Dec. 31, bartenders at California's 35,596 saloons will ask their patrons to snuff out their smokes, then gather up the ashtrays.

If the patrons comply, California will be transformed into the first state in the United States with smoke-free bars and casinos.

Those are two big "ifs." While anti-smokers hail the step, seeing bars as a major hurdle toward ridding public places of tobacco fumes, smokers are fuming. "The pleasure police are at it again," said Harold Maltz, manager of Wally's Cigar Box in Westwood.

A lawsuit has been filed by Bay Area casinos to block the law's enforcement. Some bar and casino owners, fearing a drop in business, are consulting with lawyers to seek out loopholes.

Some hold out hope that the state legislature will reverse itself and lift the law, although that is unlikely. A few die-hards predict that smokers, having been driven from offices, movie theaters, restaurants and in some instances their own homes, will simply ignore this latest lung-saving effort.

"Smokers have willingly given up the office, most workplaces, airplanes, airline terminals, school campuses and restaurants," said a Republican assemblyman, Brett Granlund, who describes himself as the legislature's "most notorious smoker," albeit one whose New Year's resolution is to kick the habit.

"I don't believe they're going to give up bars," Mr. Granlund added. "I don't believe a nonsmoker has any concept of the urge to smoke and how strong that physical addiction is when complemented with a couple of beers."

Anti-smoking advocates believe that if California's attempt to halt smoking in bars works, more states will attempt to limit workplace smoking.

"This is real change," said Stanton Glantz, a medical-school professor at the University of California's San Francisco campus and a leader in the anti-tobacco movement. "Bars are so clearly viewed as the toughest place and last bastion. The fact that

A lawsuit has been filed by Bay Area casinos to block the law's enforcement. Some bar owners are consulting with lawyers to seek out loopholes.

a place as big and diverse as California can do this will embolden other places."

That gives hope to Colleen Stevens of the state health department's tobacco-control section that the smoking ban in bars will take hold.

While acknowledging that the prohibition on smoking in bars and card rooms will not be a "cakewalk," Ms. Stevens pointed out that of California's 35,596 businesses licensed to serve drinks, 30,724 also serve food.

"We know there is an incredible demand among smokers and nonsmokers that they do not want smoke around when they eat," she said. "It will just become the norm. People will go outside to smoke."

The legislature approved and Governor Pete Wilson signed California's indoor-workplace smoking ban in 1994, despite one of the most intense lobbying efforts ever mounted by the tobacco industry and its allies.

A former assemblyman, Terry Friedman of Los Angeles, the measure's author, cast the bill as a worker-protection measure. It attempts to protect workers' health by prohibiting smoking in almost all enclosed workplaces, ranging from offices and auto garages to restaurants.

Separate legislation approved in 1996, meanwhile, allowed smoking in bars for another year. Bills to grant yet another extension failed this year, thus leaving the ban in place as of Jan. 1.

To drum up support, the state Department of Health Services is airing television and radio advertisements. The ads portray waitresses bemoaning smoke and pointing out that restaurant and bar workers have especially high cancer and heart attack rates.

There has been widespread compliance with the statewide restaurant smoking ban that took effect in 1995.

POLITICAL NOTES

Congress' Iran Hand

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton, meet Bob Ney.

Way down the Capitol Hill pecking order is a 43-year-old conservative Republican from rural Ohio who has been in Congress three years and is best known for toughening work requirements for food stamp recipients.

But Mr. Ney also has an intriguing background and expertise: He once lived in Iran and is the only member of Congress who speaks fluent Farsi.

In the wake of the announcement by President Mohammed Khatami of Iran that he wants a "thoughtful" dialogue with the United States, and Mr. Clinton's reply that he would like "nothing better," Mr. Ney hopes to put his skills to good use.

"I haven't sent a personal note to Bill Clinton or anything like that," said Mr. Ney, a loyal soldier in the Republican ranks who knows his place. "Being a member of Congress, you don't just singularly conduct foreign policy. But if the president called, I'd be more than happy to help, more than happy, and to find other members, too."

Since Mr. Khatami was swept into office last May on a platform of tolerance and respect for the rule of law, Mr. Ney has unabashedly told stories about Iran to Rotary Clubs, town meetings and almost anyone else who will listen.

He explains how wonderful the Iranian people are, how great the food is, how family values are more embedded there than in the United States and how he was dead wrong when he supported isolating the country after he entered Congress. So far, however, Mr. Ney has not had much luck getting through to either the administration or the leadership in Congress. *(NYT)*

New Attack on Drugs

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration will soon begin a $195 million anti-drug media campaign aimed at youth with a $20 million effort in 12 cities from coast to coast.

During the four-month opening phase, anti-drug messages will run everywhere that children ages 9 to 17 are likely to be watching, such as television or the Internet, the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Barry McCaffrey, said Sunday.

"Today's announcement marks the January initiation of a multifaceted national campaign that will harness the energies of parents, mass media, corporate America and the anti-drug coalitions to halt and reverse the disturbing rise in drug use among young people," General McCaffrey said in a statement.

The ads are to be tested in Atlanta; Baltimore; Boise, Idaho; Denver; Hartford, Connecticut.; Houston; Milwaukee; Portland, Oregon; San Diego; Sioux City, Iowa; Tucson, Arizona, and Washington. *(AP)*

Quote/Unquote

Jonathan Coleman, the author of "Long Way to Go," a study of race relations in Milwaukee, on reconciling opposing positions on race and affirmative action in the United States: "Perceptions are part of the gray areas. That's where people need to be going, into those gray areas. And that's where people are most afraid. So it's easy to line up behind polarized positions. It requires less courage." *(NYT)*

Away From Politics

- **A toddler sightseeing with her parents fell to her death from the Golden Gate Bridge** despite her father's desperate rescue attempt. Witnesses said the father tried to grab 2-year-old Gauri Govil as she slipped through a gap between the walkway and traffic lanes. *(AP)*
- **Three firefighters were injured,** two of them seriously, when sawdust inside a silo already on fire at a cable reel making plant in Statesville, North Carolina, sparked a flash explosion. *(AP)*
- **Two sisters who had just witnessed their mother give birth to twins** were killed in a fiery collision after their car was struck in the rear by a drunken driver, authorities in Apple Valley, California, said. *(AP)*

Canada Investigates Tainted-Blood Cases

The Associated Press

OTTAWA — The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are investigating whether criminal wrongdoing occurred in a tainted-blood scandal that infected thousands of Canadians with the AIDS virus and hepatitis C.

Corporal Gilles Moreau, a spokesman for the national police force, said Monday that an eight-member squad would take three months to assess whether there was sufficient evidence for a full-scale criminal investigation.

About 2,000 recipients of blood and blood products were infected with the AIDS virus between 1980 and 1985; 60,000 contracted hepatitis C.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

South Koreans Hustle the Reviled Kim Toward an Early Exit

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

SEOUL — There is something poignant about how President Kim Young Sam, the most powerful man in the land, is widely regarded as South Korea's greatest failure.

Mr. Kim was a democracy campaigner under military dictatorships and as president for the last five years he consolidated democratic rule in South Korea. But when university students were asked whom they would most like to clone, one of the most common responses was a dead dictator, Park Chung Hee. When asked whom they would least like to clone, the winner was Kim Young Sam.

Mr. Kim had already lost much of his popularity by last year because of scandals and a perception that he offered little leadership. But he became truly reviled only in the last month, after South Korea had to be rescued by the International Monetary Fund. Mr. Kim was blamed for betraying his nation and humiliating the Korean people.

"Even a housewife knows how to manage her money, so I don't understand how our leaders could let the country plunge into this situation," said Lee Hye Ok, 37, as she sat on a stool and sipped tea in the little shop she manages. "So I'm ashamed that we elected Kim Young Sam as our president."

Mr. Kim, whose approval rating in opinion polls has fallen from 90 percent in 1993 to below 10 percent today, declined to be interviewed.

It is difficult to get his side of the story, because even his closest aides offer only lukewarm assessments at best.

"I don't think President Kim is solely responsible for what has happened," said one aide. Another close associate offered that the president was a good man but was crippled by a lack of intelligence and broad-mindedness.

> **'Even a housewife knows how to manage her money, so I don't understand how our leaders could let the country plunge.'**

Indeed, Mr. Kim is so scorned that he is now under growing pressure to yield some authority to his archenemy, President-elect Kim Dae Jung, before the formal handover of power on Feb. 25. An early handover seems unlikely, but the calls for it underscore the antipathy toward Mr. Kim.

"Two months is too long," a newspaper headline declared, capturing the anxiety about what will happen to the markets and the economy.

The influential Korea Bar Association has said that South Korea's financial crisis is "so serious that we can't afford to wait until Feb. 25, nor can we trust this lame duck administration with the nation's future." It suggested that President Kim hand over power immediately.

President Kim met Kim Dae Jung for lunch Saturday to discuss the transition and other subjects and they promised to cooperate. But President Kim did not offer to share power.

During the campaign, Kim Dae Jung and both of the two other leading candidates called on President Kim, who did not run for re-election, to cede power immediately after the election. "We cannot let things go rudderless until Feb. 25, in view of the grave situation of the economy," Kim Dae Jung said.

He has not repeated the comment since the election, presumably to avoid offending President Kim.

The venom felt for the president is startling, because he carried out historic changes in South Korea. He established civilian control over the military and sent two former dictators, Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, to prison. On Saturday he ordered them released, but the lesson — that dictators may eventually be punished for their brutality — reverberated across Asia.

President Kim also banned the false-name bank accounts that were central to the web of corruption that enveloped South Korean business and government.

Indeed, the crackdown on corruption eventually ensnared President Kim's own family and sent one of his sons to prison, but in an odd way that was an achievement of sorts.

It would have been unimaginable for a child of any previous president to go to jail, and the fact that Mr. Kim's son was disgraced and imprisoned was a remarkable tribute to South Korean democracy and the growing strength of the rule of law.

But it is nearly impossible to find anyone who gives President Kim credit for these achievements. The governing party changed its name to distance itself from him and then asserted that it was not the governing party at all, while each of the presidential candidates insisted that President Kim was supporting someone else.

The most charitable thing that is usually said of him is that he rose higher than his abilities merited.

"He had a tremendous political intuition, which kept him surviving during difficult times," said Ben Q. Limb, an adviser to Kim Dae Jung. "But people felt he wasn't intelligent enough to manage national affairs."

One official who offers a rare balanced analysis is Lee Hong Koo, who served as prime minister under President Kim. He suggested that the president weakness was that he tried so hard to be liked that he rarely risked exercising leadership based on principles.

"On the plus side, he definitely contributed to democratization in Korea," Mr. Lee said. "Even in this crisis, no one worries about the military. In the past, when the going got tough, people would worry that someone in the military would get impatient.

"As for minuses, he's a real politician. He always wanted to be a popular president, and somehow on account of that, it didn't work out.

It's not you who lead the people, but the people who lead you. In short, he's very fearful of becoming unpopular."

2 Koreas Hold Review on Aid Despite Crisis

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Red Cross officials from the two Koreas began talks in Beijing on Monday amid worries that the South's economic crisis might hurt its aid shipments to the North.

The South Korean Red Cross has given North Korea 100,000 tons of food this year. The talks in Beijing were to review the program and discuss a new agreement for food deliveries, officials said.

Lee Byung Woong, head of the South Korean Red Cross delegation, said his side hoped to provide the same amount of aid again in 1998, although he acknowledged that the South's economic crisis might have a negative impact on the its ability to grant aid.

"Now we are in a very difficult situation, but we would like to seek a contribution for the sake of humanitarianism and compatriotism," Mr. Lee said.

South Korea's currency lost much of its value against the dollar this year as foreign investors withdrew their holdings from domestic markets as the amount of the country's indebtedness became known.

Mr. Lee said his side had presented a proposal for deliveries of food, clothing, medicine and other assistance, but he did not provide further details. The talks will resume Tuesday.

A better-than-expected autumn harvest still fell 2 million tons short of the 4.6 million tons North Korea needs to feed its 25 million people, said Johan Schaar, a Red Cross spokesman.

International aid groups have commitments for 1 million tons of food, but are still looking for donors for the other million, he noted.

Many South Koreans suspect that some of the international relief given to the North has been diverted to the country's military. North Korea has denied the allegation.

As a condition for more aid, South Korea demanded more rigorous monitoring of food deliveries, Mr. Lee said.

In Kwangju, Outrage Over The Releases

By Don Kirk,
International Herald Tribune

KWANGJU, South Korea — Every day, the mourners arrive at the May 18 cemetery, pausing perhaps to pray at the foot of the soaring monument before approaching the gravestones dug in mounds of earth piled in neat rows on the slope of a hill.

Usually the mourners, most of them widows and mothers of those who were gunned down or stabbed or beaten to death in the Kwangju massacre of May 1980, sit, stare or kneel in silence, leaving behind a flower or a bouquet.

This day, however, was different. They had just heard that the two men convicted of ordering troops into the heart of this city, firing into mobs on May 27, 1980, the 10th day of the revolt, were leaving prison. While the women prayed, Chun Doo Hwan, the former general and president most deeply implicated in the massacre, and Roh Tae Woo, the general who succeeded Mr. Chun as president in 1988, were about to go free.

The fact that President Kim Young Sam should grant amnesty to both of them, jailed two years ago for their roles in the massacre as well as massive corruption, outraged some mourners.

Sitting in front of the grave of her son, Kim Soon Hee could hardly believe the news.

"Those who committed crimes against our people should be punished most severely," she said.

If Mr. Chun "had not been president at the time," she said, "he would have been executed."

Only the fact that Kim Dae Jung — the president-elect and most popular figure ever to emerge from the southwest Cholla region that includes this city — approved the amnesty somewhat mollified the women, some alone, others standing or sitting in twos and threes, scattered through the cemetery.

"We should just follow his opinion even though we are not happy about it," said Kim Soon Hee. "Perhaps it is best for national unity."

She and other mourners were more anxious, however, to talk about the oppression of the two former presidents than the need for reconciliation.

"I lost my high school son," said Kim Kil Ja. "How can they release these people. Even though they are in jail, our anger cannot be pacified. How can they be out?"

She demanded that Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh "kneel down and apologize before the graves of all those they killed."

Others recalled how the police, during the Chun and Roh era, would visit their homes, force them into buses and drive them either to jail or to distant points far from town when either of them was in the area.

Nobody knows how many actually died in the massacre, but more than 200 are buried here. Estimates of the dead run as high as 1,000.

Eriko Sugita/Reuters

GET ME OUTA HERE! — A Japanese girl letting Finland's "official" Santa know Monday what she wanted. The Finnish goodwill envoy had come all the way from Santa Village to meet children in Tokyo.

BRIEFLY

Philippine Opposition Selects Candidate for the Presidency

MANILA — Vice President Joseph Estrada, a former movie star whose down-to-earth image has earned him wide popularity, was chosen Monday by the largest opposition party as its presidential candidate for elections next year.

At a news conference, Mr. Estrada said he expected a tough fight against President Fidel Ramos's governing party, Lakas-NUCD, in the campaign. "The days ahead are not going to be so easy," he said.

Senator Edgardo Angara, the closest rival for the presidential nomination of the Struggle of the Nationalist Filipino Masses, agreed to run as vice president.

While Mr. Estrada, 60, consistently tops popularity surveys, many business people question whether he can continue the successful economic reform policies introduced by Mr. Ramos, who is limited to a single six-year term by the constitution. *(AP)*

U.S. Visa Plot Foiled in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan dismissed three Pakistani employees caught taking bribes from people applying for American visas, an embassy spokesman said Monday. Their cases have been turned over to Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency for possible criminal action.

American officials say they do not believe visas were given to people who would not have otherwise received one. "That is what we are trying to stress to people who were coughing up this money — that they were buying nothing," the embassy spokesman said. *(AP)*

Hun Sen Snubs Push for a Truce

BANGKOK — Hun Sen, second prime minister of Cambodia, reinforced his troops Monday as light fighting continued with resistance forces despite an opposition leader's attempt to bring in the United Nations to mediate a cease-fire.

Exiled opposition politicians based in Bangkok, meanwhile, said they had postponed their planned return to Cambodia because of Mr. Hun Sen's offensive.

But a representative of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the co-prime minister deposed by Mr. Hun Sen's coup in July, arrived in Phnom Penh to prepare for elections next year and the prince's "imminent" return. *(AP)*

A Taleban Protest at UN Office

KABUL — More than 1,000 Taleban supporters protested outside a United Nations office in southern Afghanistan to demand an end to the UN criticism of the Islamic militia's human-rights record, Taleban officials said Monday.

The protesters in Kandahar, about 420 kilometers (250 miles) southwest of Kabul, said all Afghans supported the Taleban's strict brand of Islamic law. Most stores in Kandahar closed as people joined the peaceful protest on Sunday. The Islamic militia has banned women from work and girls from school, and forced men to grow beards and pray in mosques in the zones it controls. *(AP)*

Malaysia Professors Held Again

KUALA LUMPUR — Two university professors jailed for propagating teachings of the Shiite sect of Islam were arrested again minutes after their release Monday.

The professors, Lutpi Ibrahim and Fadzlullah Shuib, had been ordered released on technical grounds after a high court judge ruled Saturday that they had been improperly arrested by policemen, the press agency Bernama reported.

The two were detained Nov. 7 under Malaysia's Internal Security Act, which gives the government the authority to detain people without trial for alleged involvement in activities deemed contrary to Muslim unity and national security, according to the New Sunday Times newspaper. Most Malaysian Muslims are Sunni. *(AP)*

U.S. Envoy Says Tension With Malaysia Has Eased

Reuters

KUALA LUMPUR — Strains between Malaysia and the United States, which culminated in death threats against Americans, have eased as Kuala Lumpur has recognized its own role in the region's economic crisis, the U.S. ambassador said Monday.

But the envoy, John Malott, said the once-blossoming relations between the two countries were likely to settle into a holding pattern over the next year because of Malaysia's economic troubles and budget cuts.

Mr. Malott said in an interview that tensions peaked last month when the U.S. Embassy said a telephone caller had threatened to kill four Americans in Malaysia. Malaysian media have quoted local officials as disputing the seriousness of the threats.

"So it really sort of built up, built up and got out of hand, culminating with the death threats," Mr. Malott said.

He said tensions had since faded. "I would say yes, things are considerably different since then, for a number of reasons," he said.

The envoy cited a news conference he held last month when he appealed to leaders in both countries to put an end to emotional rhetoric. "Calmer heads started to prevail," he said.

He also said debate over a resolution in Malaysia's Parliament condemning a measure introduced in the U.S. Congress had ended up helping to ease the tension. The U.S. resolution, which has not been approved by Congress, demanded that Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad either apologize for remarks he made about Jews or resign.

Malaysia's lower house last month overwhelmingly approved a resolution condemning the U.S. measure. "The debate was very well done, very carefully handled," Mr. Malott said. He said Malaysian leaders had used the discussion to point out the trade and investment links between the two countries.

Mr. Malott said Malaysian leaders had begun to focus on domestic factors contributing to the economic downturn and realized the United States had nothing to gain from Malaysia's troubles.

"There is an increasing willingness to discuss some of the domestic factors that also led to this financial crisis," he said.

The U.S. envoy said there also was a growing recognition that Southeast Asia's crisis had hurt American companies as well.

"If you start with this idea of three months ago that America was the mastermind, that Americans were behind this conspiracy, it doesn't make any sense," he said.

"If that is true, why do you see the U.S. stock market starting to go down? Why do you see U.S. companies having to cut back on their stock prices or having to cut back on staff?

"My real concern was this sort of generalized, broad-brushed America-bashing that was going on there. I think that is behind us now and we can begin to get on with things."

But the U.S. envoy said Malaysia's difficulties meant many aspects of the bilateral relationship would be put on hold.

"We are going into a sort of a holding pattern in many areas for the next year simply because of the downturn in the economy here and also because of the decline in the Malaysian government's budget," he said, referring to a government plan to cut spending by 18 percent next year.

Mr. Malott said Malaysia had emerged as one of the fastest-growing export markets for U.S. companies.

U.S. exports to Malaysia are forecast to rise to $9.5 billion this year from $8.5 billion in 1996, according to the U.S. Embassy. Malaysian exports to the United States, meanwhile, are projected to climb to $18.5 billion in 1997 from $17.8 billion.

KOREA: *Ex-Presidents Freed*

Continued from Page 1

tear gas, blocked students from marching into the streets. There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests.]

Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh will not be allowed to recover wealth they accumulated during their presidencies, but they will have their civil rights restored, the government said.

The two will be allowed to engage in political activities and to receive security protection at taxpayers' expense. Whether they get their presidential pensions will be decided by the courts, according to Korean media reports.

Mr. Chun was president from 1980 to 1988, and Mr. Roh held office from 1988 to 1993, when he was succeeded by President Kim.

While the pardons have prompted some bitter criticism, they appear to have been widely accepted in South Korean society.

"For the goal of national harmony, we can understand and even welcome their being pardoned for their crimes," said Park Jung Ki, whose son, Park Jong Chul, a college sophomore, was tortured to death while under police interrogation on Jan. 14, 1987.

That case, in which five police officers were convicted, triggered months of increasingly huge protests that forced Mr. Chun to accept a more democratic constitution later that year.

Restoration of the former presidents' civil rights, however, "is absurd, and much too soon," Mr. Park added.

"We at the association are enraged that the two will have their rights restored," said Mr. Park, an official of the Democratic Family Association, a group of people who lost relatives in the democracy struggle of the 1970s and 1980s.

By supporting the pardons, Kim Dae Jung — who is scheduled to take office Feb. 25 — seems sure to lessen antagonism toward his presidency from citizens of the country's southeastern Kyongsang region, the political base for both Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh.

Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh were convicted for their roles in a mutiny in 1979 and a massacre and coup in 1980 as well as for amassing huge slush funds while in office. Mr. Chun was condemned to death, but that sentence was reduced on appeal to life imprisonment. Mr. Roh's 22-year sentence was reduced to 17 years.

Kim Dae Jung himself was sentenced to death for treason in 1980, just three weeks after Mr. Chun assumed the presidency. Mr. Kim's life was saved partly through pressure from the United States, and he was released from prison in 1982.

WON: *President Warns of Possible Layoffs*

Continued from Page 1

"If I had known about the depth of the economic problem," he told reporters, "I would not have talked about IMF renegotiation." He repeated, "We might go bankrupt."

Mr. Kim's tone revealed a sense of urgency rarely expressed here by top South Korean officials as they have sought to put together the funds needed for banks and companies to pay off billions of dollars of debts.

One influence on his outlook appeared to be that of a key American troubleshooter, David Lipton, undersecretary of the Treasury, who conferred with him after arriving in Seoul.

Mr. Kim, who campaigned on a pro-labor platform that opposed changes in laws that make layoffs difficult if not impossible, revealed his change of heart about letting workers go after seeing Mr. Lipton and the new U.S. ambassador to Korea, Stephen Bosworth.

A spokesman for Mr. Kim quoted him as saying, "I would let companies lay off their employees as a last resort" — an alternative that he viewed as preferable to bankruptcy.

Mr. Lipton, meeting Kim at the headquarters of his political organization, stressed that the need for layoffs was a top priority, according to Chung Dong Young, a party spokesman and member of the national assembly.

A major behind-the-scenes player in forming the requirements set by the IMF, Mr. Lipton told Mr. Kim that the country could not hold up wages and employment at the same time, Mr. Chung said.

Mr. Kim also acknowledged that the Bank of Korea had used up valuable foreign exchange attempting to prop up the won before letting it float last week. The won declined sharply Monday as Korean banks and companies sought more dollars to pay off debts. At the end of the day, the dollar was worth 1,715 won, up from 1,660 won in the morning.

Mr. Kim asked the United States to assist in supporting the won — an apparent bid for loans, something the United States has been reluctant to advance until South Korea fulfilled its commitments under the IMF accord.

Claiming that "80 percent of the Korean people support the IMF," Mr. Chung quoted Mr. Kim as saying that the "new government will abide by the IMF agreement 100 percent."

One of Korea's most respected organizations, Pohang Iron & Steel Co., was among nine companies and 20 banks whose ratings were cut by Moody's. The government's rating was reduced to Ba1 from Baa2.

The cut in ratings reflected the declining value of the South Korean currency, soaring interest rates and fast-disappearing credit. While ratings for long-term deposits at almost all major South Korean banks dropped a notch or two, their financial strength ranged from E to C, with most around D-plus.

"This is the worst shape Korea has ever been in," Baek Sang Hyun, an international finance official at the Finance and Economy Ministry, told Bloomberg News.

Several of Korea's top companies, some of them key entities of major *chaebol*, or conglomerates, were among those whose ratings were cut. They included Hyundai Motor Co., LG-Caltex Oil Corp., Yukong (Oil) Ltd., Korea Electric Power, Korea Telecom, Hyundai Semiconductor America Inc., Samsung Electronics Co. and SK Telecom.

In Indonesia, Hyundai Motor officials said the company had canceled plans to build a plant there capable of building 100,000 vehicles a year, news services there reported. The move came after the Indonesian government accepted IMF conditions that it lower tariffs on foreign imports and reduce tax breaks for locally produced cars.

On the Seoul stock exchange, the composite index slipped only 4.13 points, or 1.03 percent, from Saturday, closing at 396.06. Another sign of the deteriorating economy, though, was that the benchmark yield on three-year corporate bonds rose to 29.95 percent. The government has raised the interest-rate ceiling on bonds from 25 percent to 40 percent.

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EUROPE

Novice, 44, Dominates Round 1 in Lithuania

Reuters

VILNIUS, Lithuania— A political newcomer, Arturas Paulauskas, triumphed Monday in the first round of presidential elections, but he was headed for what is most likely to be a hard-fought runoff with Valdas Adamkus, a 71-year-old Lithuanian-American.

Final figures showed that Mr. Paulauskas, 44, had won 45.35 percent of the vote. A 71.54 percent turnout of the 2.5 million qualified voters was recorded.

But because Mr. Paulauskas received less than 50 percent of the votes, he will face Mr. Adamkus, another political novice, who came in second with 27.89 percent, in a runoff election on Jan. 4.

Vytautas Landsbergis, who led Lithuania to independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, was third, with 15.85 percent.

Mr. Paulauskas said on Lithuanian television that the vote had drawn a "dividing line" between "politicians of the past" and those "who are looking into the future and thinking of the future."

The president's job is mainly ceremonial, but the holder of the office plays a key role after elections by nominating the candidate for prime minister.

The president is also expected to be the country's spokesman abroad and to help pursue its goals of entry to the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Mr. Paulauskas, a former prosecutor general, had received the endorsement of the departing president, Algirdas Brazauskas, a popular figure who has urged Lithuanians to choose new leaders for the next century.

Mr. Adamkus stressed his experience of 40 years in the West and as a senior administrator at the U.S. Environment Protection Agency.

The Bridgeman/Agence France-Presse

The defense ministers of Britain, Germany, Spain and Italy celebrating the signing Monday of the accord to put the *Eurofighter into production. From left,* George Robertson, Volker Ruehe, Eduardo Serra and Beniamino Andreatta.

Countries Sign On to European Jet Fighter

The Associated Press

BONN — Defense ministers from Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain signed the long-awaited Eurofighter jet contract Monday, giving a boost to Europe's defense industry.

The $40 billion agreement, representing an attempt to compete with the defense giants of the United States, is expected to create tens of thousands of jobs.

Production contracts now must be signed by the consortium of companies from the participating countries, including Daimler-Benz Aerospace, the main German contractor. Germany and Britain hold 33 percent each of the contract, Italy holds 21 percent, and Spain, 13 percent.

The signing came more than a decade after the Eurofighter plan was conceived during the Cold War. It was delayed by cost-cutting negotiations with industry, reports of development problems and questions about whether the aircraft would be needed at all after the collapse of communism.

Germany was the most reluctant partner because of its tight budget, largely because of the high cost of unifying the former East Germany with the West in 1990.

In October, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet removed the last obstacle to the Eurofighter, approving plans for Germany to buy 180 of the jets for $71 million each. Britain, Italy and Spain have ordered about 450 of the planes, which the consortium also plans to export.

Defense Minister Volker Ruehe estimates that the Eurofighter contract will create 18,000 high-technology jobs for Germans. Britain expects to gain as many as 40,000 jobs at the peak of production through its main contractor, British Aerospace.

Yeltsin Decree: All Cured

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Paying little heed to his doctors, President Boris Yeltsin said Monday he had fully recovered from a severe cold and was headed back to the Kremlin on Tuesday, Russian news agencies reported.

"I have no traces of illness," Mr. Yeltsin said at the start of a meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at the Barvikha sanitarium, where he has been receiving treatment since Dec. 10 for an acute respiratory viral infection.

"Tomorrow I will leave for the Kremlin and go back to work," the Interfax and Itar-Tass news agencies quoted him as saying. Mr. Yeltsin, who underwent heart bypass surgery in November 1996, is known as a restless patient. He said Thursday that he was leaving the sanitarium just west of Moscow, but the next day, his doctors said he should remain there for a further five to seven days of recuperation.

Italian Leader Avoids Indictment

The Associated Press

ROME — A judge rejected a prosecutor's request Monday to indict Prime Minister Romano Prodi on abuse-of-office charges stemming from the sale of a food company when he headed a giant state holding conglomerate.

After several hearings over the last few months, Judge Eduardo Landi ruled that there was no evidence of wrongdoing in the spinoff four years ago of Cirio-Bertolli from the state holding company Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI).

Mr. Prodi was IRI's chairman at the time. The prosecutor had alleged that the company was sold at an artificially low price.

Judge Landi also rejected a request to indict Mr. Prodi on conflict-of-interest charges stemming from when he was a consultant to the international company Unilever before he headed IRI.

Giuseppa Geremia, the prosecutor, said she would wait until she read the judge's written decision to decide whether she would appeal.

The judge also cleared five former members of IRI's board of directors of abuse-of-office charges stemming from the Cirio-Bertolli sale.

The prime minister, who did not attend any of the hearings, had denied any wrongdoing, and his lawyers said Monday's ruling completely vindicated his actions.

The exoneration was widely expected after a team of financial experts appointed by the judge concluded in October that they found no evidence of wrongdoing in the sale.

Spain's Fallen Jet-Set Banker

Ex-Banesto Chief Who Shook System Is on Trial Again

By Marlise Simons
New York Times Service

MADRID — While moving on the fast track of modern Spain, Mario Conde gained a fortune, country homes, a yacht, a reputation as a daring financier and many friends in high places.

But Mr. Conde, 49, former chairman of what had been one of Spain's biggest banks, Banesto, is now fighting to stay out of jail. Convicted of forgery and misappropriation of funds in March, he is charged with fraud, forgery and embezzlement of millions of dollars of bank funds and could face 35 years in jail if convicted.

His trial, which opened in Madrid on Dec. 17, will affect more than the man who until recently was a star of Madrid society. It is a complex case, involving 10 other defendants, and will bring some of Spain's leading political and business figures to the witness stand.

It also promises to reveal much about the way modern Spain works, above all during the boom of the late 1980s, when money poured into the country, the economy soared and few questions were asked.

Mr. Conde, who denies the charges against him, swept to success during this boom. Born in a small town in northern Spain, Mr. Conde first earned a fortune in pharmaceuticals, then joined the board of Banesto, at the time Spain's second-largest bank, and became its chairman in 1987. The arrival of this outsider with jet-set ways was a shock to Spain's staid financial establishment.

Mr. Conde moved quickly, buying and selling companies through the bank's various holdings. Prosecutors said that through "financial engineering and creative accounting," Mr. Conde and his associates siphoned off millions of dollars via St. Vincent, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Friends said Mr. Conde was also preparing for a political career by buying newspapers and television stations through Banesto and making sure he was photographed with national political leaders and King Juan Carlos I.

But Mr. Conde fell from grace in 1993 when investigators found that $4 billion was missing from Banesto. The rescue of the bank cost the Spanish Central Bank $1.5 billion, and Banesto has since been taken over by Banco Santander.

The trial that has begun in Madrid is the most important, but not the first, case involving Mr. Conde.

He already faces a six-year prison term for forgery and misappropriating $4.2 million after a separate trial in March. He has been released on $13.3 million bail and for now continues to live on his estate outside Madrid.

He is open about his quest for power and says he is the victim of revenge concocted by political enemies.

"When I discovered that political power is controlled by the system, I tried to gain financial and media power," he said in a recent interview published in El Mundo, a Madrid newspaper.

And so, he said, he became "a political problem" for the right and the left.

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Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

BRIEFLY

Rioting Near Paris Injures 2 Policemen

PARIS — Two policemen were injured overnight in a new bout of rioting outside Paris by youths protesting the killing of a comrade by the police last week, French radio said Monday.

A reporter for Radio France-Info said he saw gasoline bombs showered on the police from the roofs of high-rise, low-income buildings at Dammerie-les-Lys east of the capital.

Riot troops shot back volleys of tear gas grenades, many of which shattered apartment windows, forcing residents to flee into the streets, the reporters said.

The youths were protesting the shooting in the head of Abdelkader Bouziane, 16, who the police said raced through one of their roadblocks on Wednesday and tried to crash through another while driving without a license.

There were no further reports of violence in the Lyon suburb of La Duchere, where a policeman killed a young man with the shotgun with which he was arrested on a street. The Lyon incidents involved Frenchmen, not immigrants, but also took place in a slum neighborhood. *(Reuters)*

U.S. Envoy in Dublin Is Ecumenical, Too

DUBLIN — The U.S. ambassador, Jean Kennedy Smith, has taken communion in Dublin's oldest Protestant cathedral, following the lead of the president and ignoring criticism from Roman Catholic church leaders.

"Religion, after all, is about bringing people together," Mrs. Smith told The Irish Times after she was seen at the service Sunday in Christ Church Cathedral. "We all have our own way of going to God."

Mrs. Smith, appointed in 1993 by President Bill Clinton, is the sister of former President John Kennedy.

Her move followed the decision by Mary McAleese, who was inaugurated Nov. 11 as the country's first president from Northern Ireland, to accept communion Dec. 7 in Christ Church Cathedral.

Mrs. McAleese, a Catholic from the predominantly Protestant province, campaigned under the slogan "building bridges" and said she wished to promote Christian unity in a divided land.

The Catholic hierarchy criticized Mrs. McAleese and said it hoped she would not repeat the act. *(AP)*

Safe Mir Docking

MOSCOW — A supply ship docked smoothly with the Mir space station Monday, delivering nearly 2.5 tons of supplies for its crew, including New Year's gifts.

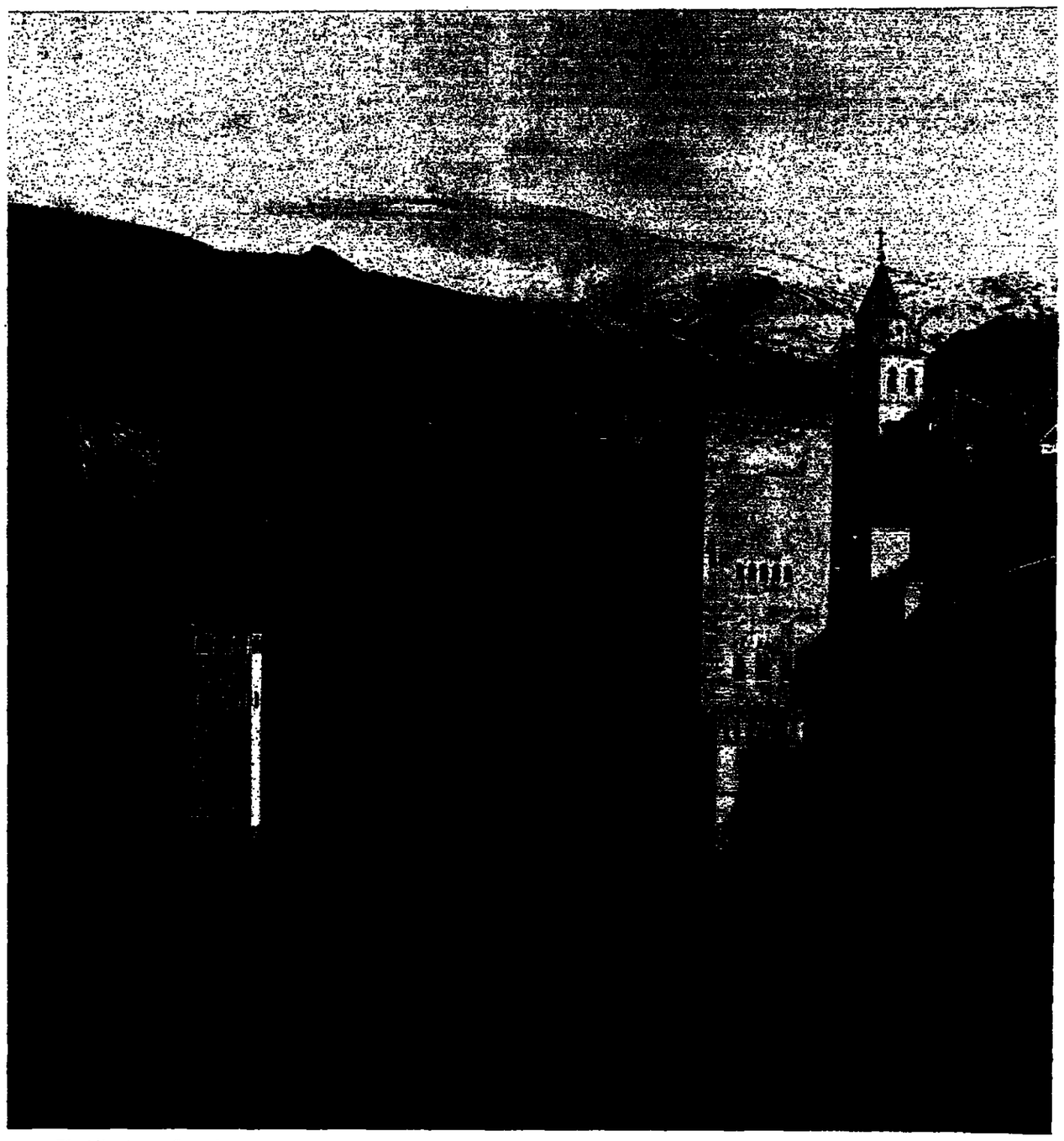
"The docking went without a hitch in the automatic mode," said Vera Medvedkova, a spokeswoman for mission control.

Among the supplies were New Year's presents sent from the families of the two cosmonauts and a U.S. astronaut, David Wolf.

"You might as well have sent half a kilo of snow," one cosmonaut, Pavel Vinogradov, joked with ground controller.

Mission control responded by suggesting that the crew begin decorating a plastic fir tree they have on board for Christmas.

The docking procedure has drawn attention since a crash June 25, when a cargo ship rammed the station during a practice manual docking. *(AP)*



The Alhambra in Granada

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ESPAÑA

INTERNATIONAL

Hindu National Party In India Finds 2 Allies

Inroads Raise Fears of Sectarian Tension

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

BHUBANESHWAR, India — The next election in India represents the Bharatiya Janata Party's best chance to form a national government, raising fears among political opponents that a rise of the Hindu nationalist party could provoke sectarian tensions.

But the party acknowledges that it cannot come to power in New Delhi on its own. It has searched for allies in eastern and southern India, where its support is weak, and has already reached understandings with two parties.

These first steps toward building a coalition that could command a parliamentary majority in the election, likely in February, cheered leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party who met here in the capital of eastern Orissa state. The party attracted about 40,000 people to a rally Saturday, although it has no parliamentary representatives from the state.

The midterm election was called last month after the Congress (I) Party withdrew support from Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's coalition of regional, centrist and Communist parties that came together last year as the United Front to protect India's constitutional mandate of secularism and deny a parliamentary majority to the Bharatiya Janata Party. The party's minority government collapsed in May 1996 after two weeks in power.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, founded in 1951 as the political wing of the largest Hindu nationalist organization, believes India is "one nation, one people, one culture." Critics say that philosophy is opposed to the constitutional mandate of secularism. Several of the party's positions, such as uniformity in laws on marriage, divorce and inheritance for members of all religious groups, are regarded as anti-Muslim.

Most analysts predict that the party will increase its numbers in the 545-member lower house of Parliament but not reach a majority. With about 160 members, the party was the largest in the last Parliament. Party organizers have been working to expand its base from upper-caste Hindus in northern India to other regions, castes and communities.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has been in power in several northern and western Indian states without a noticeable increase in communal tensions — with one exception. It continues to be blamed for sectarian violence that spread across the country after Hindu militants demolished a 16th-century mosque in northern Uttar Pradesh state in 1992. The party had campaigned for the construction of a Hindu temple on the mosque's site in Ayodhya, the reputed birthplace of a Hindu god. Several party leaders, including its current president, L. K. Advani, were present during the mosque's demolition and face criminal charges.

The party has muted its claims to the Ayodhya site and other positions that critics condemn as a threat to the Muslim minority. But fear that a Bharatiya Janata Party government in New Delhi would precipitate communal violence is a potentially powerful issue for the party's main opponents, the Congress Party and the United Front coalition.

"Their nationalism is based on division," said Madhavrao Scindia, a Congress leader. "We want to bring the nation together, not break it."

To blunt the communalism charge, leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party have promised to field Muslim candidates in major states.

Earlier this month, Mr. Advani also made what he called a peace offer to the Muslims: If they agreed to the construction of a Hindu temple at Ayodhya, the Bharatiya Janata Party would consider ceding claims to two other disputed mosque sites that Muslim rulers built in pre-colonial times.

No Muslim leader embraced Mr. Advani's offer. J.B. Patnaik, governor of Orissa state, dismissed the proposal as a threat to demolish two more mosques.

Orissa is one of the Congress Party's few remaining strongholds. It controls the state government and 17 of 21 parliamentary seats. But Mr. Patnaik acknowledged that the Bharatiya Janata Party could win a few seats in Orissa, where its prospects have been boosted by an alliance with a breakaway faction of the Janata Dal, Mr. Gujral's left-leaning party.

More troubling has been a new alliance in southern Tamil Nadu state between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the regional party of Jayalalitha Jayaram, a former chief minister ousted in the last election and jailed briefly on corruption charges.

In the past, the Bharatiya Janata Party has cast itself as an embodiment of clean politics.

"For the last 40 years, we have played the game according to the rules, observed every norm in the book," said Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the party's prospective prime minister. "But we have to fight with those who play foul. What are we supposed to do?"

Sebastian D'Souza/Agence France-Presse

PROTEST IN BOMBAY — Indians protesting Monday outside the Saudi Consulate after it limited visas for Mecca pilgrimages and added a 1,000-rupee fee for medical exams for potential workers in Saudi Arabia.

'Subjugation' of Tibet

Jurists Fault China and Call for Referendum

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GENEVA — The International Commission of Jurists, which works to defend the rule of law around the world, said Monday that Chinese-ruled Tibet was "under alien subjugation" and called for a United Nations-run referendum to decide its future status.

The Geneva-based body said in a report that the autonomy Beijing claims is enjoyed by Tibetans was fictitious and that real power lay in Chinese hands.

"It is to maintain its alien and unpopular rule that China has sought to suppress Tibetan nationalist dissent and extinguish Tibetan culture," said the commission's secretary-general, Adama Dieng, a lawyer from Senegal, in an introduction to the report.

"It is to colonize unwilling subjects that China has encouraged and facilitated the mass movement of ethnic Chinese populations into Tibet, where they dominate the region's politics and security, as well as its economy," he wrote.

Beijing claims that Tibet is part of China. It has rejected allegations of torture and religious repression. It has also blocked United Nations attempts to investigate human rights abuses.

The 365-page report, entitled "Tibet: Human Rights and the Rule of Law," said there had been an escalation of repression since the beginning of 1996 in the region, formerly a Buddhist theocracy that was absorbed into China in 1950.

The commission said political re-education had been stepped up in the Tibet's remaining monasteries and torture and other forms of violence were widely used.

Documented methods of torture against Tibetans include beatings with chains, sticks with protruding nails, iron bars and cattle prods. Women, particularly nuns, have been raped, according to the study.

The report asserted that Communist Party leaders had declared "total war" on the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader who fled into exile in 1959 after an abortive uprising against Beijing's rule.

The commission, which has tracked developments in Tibet closely since the late 1950s, said only a UN-supervised referendum could establish exactly what the Tibetans wanted.

Eligible to take part should be all Tibetans and other people resident in the region before 1950 and their descendants, as well as Tibetan refugees and their descendants. *(Reuters, AP)*

For a Pariah, Saddam Sure Has a Lot of Friends

New York Times Service

BAGHDAD — Saddam Hussein may be an international pariah in some quarters, but an eclectic mix of visitors has made the pilgrimage to Baghdad in recent weeks to express solidarity with the Iraqi leader.

The vociferous Russian nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky was here this month. A delegation from France's Parliament has paid its respects. And Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam in the United States, delivered an impassioned appeal for an end to the United Nations trade sanctions that was greeted with shouts of "Down, down with America!"

Travel to Baghdad, of course, is no easy matter. Since a United Nations ban on air flights to the country remains in effect, visitors face an arduous 16-hour drive from Jordan by bus or car. Most end up at Al Rashid Hotel, where the lobby's marble floor is still decorated with a tiled mosaic likeness of former President George Bush emblazoned with the slogan "George Bush, criminal."

One recent evening, the hotel pianist played "Strangers in the Night" as scowling Russians and robed Gulf sportsmen carrying blindfolded hunting falcons rubbed shoulders with about 20 members of Mr. Farrakhan's entourage, some dressed in black leather coats, high-top sneakers and gold chains.

Mr. Bush's portrait presented an opportunity some of the visitors found irresistible. Mr. Zhirinovsky, for example, stamped his feet on it, largely for the benefit of a CNN camera crew.

In the seven years since Iraq invaded Kuwait, the Western allies have largely maintained the diplomatic isolation of Baghdad. But there have been other, less-formal ties to the outside world.

Indonesian, German and Pakistani businessmen are here, exchanging business cards and looking forward to the day when the sanctions end. Several delegations of Americans have come to Iraq to deliver antibiotics, which remain in short supply.

The visitors to Baghdad seem impervious to recent political developments, which include President Saddam's standoff with United Nations weapons inspectors.

The official visits to Iraq are exhaustively covered by the state-controlled media. Recently, Ahmed Jassem Thania, a Qatari sheik who is head of his country's royal guard, met with Mr. Saddam to convey what the Iraqi press later called "brotherly relations."

Television coverage of the handshake and meeting was all pictures, however, save for an introductory voice-over accompanied by classical music.

Mr. Farrakhan's reception was more elaborate. A group of Bedouin poets sang his praises before he began his speech at the Rashid theater, a modern building in the heart of Baghdad.

His ringing plea for solidarity among the world's Muslims was translated phrase by phrase into Arabic. Some women in the audience responded with the high-pitched cry traditionally used to express happiness or celebration.

Surrounded by cameras, Mr. Farrakhan told the crowd of Muslim and Christian religious leaders and journalists that America was in need of "moral awakening."

As he demanded an end to the sanctions against Iraq, Mr. Farrakhan's words were met with wild applause and shouts of "God is great!"

The Gulf War disrupted the long-standing alliance between Iraq and Russia, which supplied most of the weapons used by the Iraqi Army, and Mr. Zhirinovsky, the Russian nationalist and vocal critic of his country's ties to the West, suggested that it was time to reinvigorate the Baghdad-Moscow relationship.

Mr. Zhirinovsky met with Mr. Saddam and other senior officials.

At a news conference, he underscored his solidarity with Iraqis, brushing aside a British journalist's question with the comment, "You speak the language of the aggressor."

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Netanyahu Broadens Land Claim

West Bank Up to the Jordan River Belongs to Israel, He Declares

By Joel Greenberg
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Firing another salvo in a war of words with the Palestinians, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asserted that Israel claims the West Bank up to the Jordan River and will insist on maintaining security zones and settlements there in a final peace agreement.

Speaking to an international convention of the Likud party Sunday night, Mr. Netanyahu returned to a theme that already had drawn a sharp response from the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The two men have staked out sharply opposing positions in recent days as the Israeli cabinet has debated the size of a further troop withdrawal in the West Bank under self-rule agreements with the Palestinians.

"We do not view this land, from the Yarkon to the Jordan, this is not an alien land, a foreign land," Mr. Netanyahu said, referring to the Yarkon River in Tel Aviv and the territory of the West Bank. "This is the land of our forefathers, and we claim it to the same degree that the other side claims it."

There was no immediate Palestinian response. After Mr. Netanyahu on Friday called the West Bank "part of Israel proper," Mr. Arafat described the statement as a "flagrant violation" of signed agreements. He added that Palestinians were determined to free the West Bank from "the claws of Israeli occupation." The Palestinian Authority now controls the cities of the West Bank and shares control of some surrounding areas with Israel.

The verbal jousting came amid U.S. efforts to secure an Israeli pullback that would be significant enough to enable the resumption of talks on a permanent peace settlement.

President Bill Clinton's administration has given Mr. Netanyahu one more month to win his cabinet's approval for the withdrawal, which has encountered stiff resistance from Jewish settlers and their supporters in the governing coalition. In his remarks Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu said Israel asserted a "basic right" to the West Bank and said his government would insist on retaining West Bank areas that it considered vital to Israel's security and on Jewish settlements in the area, saying they were "not only our right to preserve but to build." He also said Israel would "preserve the unity of Jerusalem" and that "greater Jerusalem will remain undivided."

Palestinians see East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel after it was captured from Jordan in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, as the capital of a future Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Arafat said Saturday, "We will not accept the Judaization of Jerusalem or the ceding of one grain of soil of holy Jerusalem."

BRIEFLY

U.S., Israel and Turkey To Hold Naval Exercise

JERUSALEM — Israel, Turkey and the United States will hold their first trilateral naval exercise in the Mediterranean off the Israeli coast next month, the Israeli Army said Monday.

In the operation, called Reliant Mermaid, the three navies will practice search-and-rescue missions.

The one-day seaborne portion of the exercise, scheduled for Jan. 7, will involve five ships, several helicopters and search aircraft. *(AP)*

30 Massacred in Algeria

ALGIERS — About 20 men armed with sharp-edged weapons crept into a western Algerian village in the middle of the night, killed 30 people and kidnapped five villagers, witnesses said Monday.

Among those abducted in the Sunday attack on the hamlet of El Bordj, near the Moroccan border, were three young girls, witnesses said.

Also Sunday, two bombs exploded in the region surrounding El Bordj, near the city of Tlemcen, wounding four people, hospital sources said. *(AP)*

Colombia Base Raided

BOGOTA — Marxist guerrillas stormed a remote army base in mountains in southern Colombia, killing as many as 22 soldiers and taking prisoner another seven, authorities said.

At an evening news conference, General Mario Hugo Galan, the army commander, declined to confirm the death toll but described the situation in the Paramo de Patascoy region of southern Narino province as "very grave, extremely critical."

He said 34 men, including officers and soldiers, had been in the base when it was overrun before dawn Sunday by about 400 guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the country's largest rebel army. *(Reuters)*

Fujimori Defuses Crisis

LIMA — A public dispute between Peru's president and his top general appeared to ease, as the nation's military commanders returned to their barracks over the weekend.

The dispute over who should get credit for the dramatic hostage release at the Japanese Embassy in April had produced fears of political instability in Peru, where President Alberto Fujimori has had the solid support of the military since he took office in 1990.

Mr. Fujimori ordered the generals back to their posts on Saturday after the six chiefs of Peru's military regions held a surprise meeting with armed forces head, General Nicolas Hermoza, in Lima. The generals had remained in the capital after a military ceremony on Friday. *(AP)*

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Free Speech for Wei

Last month, China sent the democracy advocate Wei Jingsheng into exile. For peacefully urging an end to dictatorship, Mr. Wei, 47, had spent almost two decades in jail and labor camps. But through a combination of eloquence, stubbornness and clear thinking he had become, from near-total isolation, a premier symbol of resistance, and China's Communist rulers decided to be rid of him.

A few weeks after his arrival in the United States, the Voice of America invited Mr. Wei to its Southwest Washington studio for an interview. The invitation seemed natural, almost self-evident. China's domestic press is totally controlled by the state; the Voice of America and its cousin, Radio Free Asia, provide two of very few avenues for Mr. Wei's message to reach at least some people living in China. Opportunities such as giving Mr. Wei a chance to reach his own people, in fact, are why the Voice of America exists.

Yet it was the American government, and not China's regime, which kept Mr. Wei from reaching as wide an audience as possible, and tried to block him even further. U.S. Ambassador to China James Sasser urged the White House to intervene when he learned of the proposed interview, and both Sandy Berger, President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, and Joseph Duffey, chief of the U.S. Information Agency, complied. They put the request to broadcast executives.

In the end, a piece of the interview that was to be broadcast on Worldnet, a direct arm of U.S. propaganda, was blocked. Radio and television broadcasts on the Voice of America, which is by charter editorially independent, went forward despite administration objections.

Since this episode was first reported by The Washington Times and The Wall Street Journal, administration officials, in private and public, have offered varying explanations. One was that the White House wanted to block only Worldnet's broadcast, and not the Voice of America's; another, that there was no request not to broadcast, only an effort to inform the Voice of America what the consequences might be. Mr. Duffey, who acknowledges asking the Voice not to proceed with its television broadcast, says he knew his request would be rejected.

All administration officials insist that they acted with the best of intentions, and this is undoubtedly true. The administration felt that Mr. Clinton had given China's rulers reason to believe that the U.S. government would not exploit Mr. Wei's release for propaganda purposes. China understandably views the Voice of America as an organ of the U.S. government. If the Voice broadcast Mr. Wei's interview into China, therefore, China's rulers would feel double-crossed and would be less likely to release other dissidents in the future.

This incident fits into a long-running debate over whether quiet, respectful requests to dictators or noisy pressure on them better serve the promotion of human rights. There is no single answer that can fit every situation. But it is worth noting that dissidents themselves — whether in the Soviet Union, China or elsewhere — almost always say, when given a chance to say anything, that forthright is better than mousy.

Mr. Wei himself, in a meeting with Mr. Clinton, argued that only strong pressure can affect China's regime. Reached after the Voice of America incident, he said China's rulers might use the broadcast as a pretext not to release others, but it would never be the real reason. He added that he would not have accepted exile in the United States if he were to be precluded from speaking to the Chinese people — a condition he remains confident that the United States will never impose, he said.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Mideast Glimmerings

Although the effort has not yet yielded tangible agreements, the Clinton administration has reawakened the quest for Mideast peace. Through repeated meetings with Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and useful public exhortations, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has nudged the parties toward constructive action. They must now act on that impulse and end the verbal jousting that erupted over the weekend about historic claims to the West Bank.

The Israeli cabinet has agreed, in principle, to new territorial withdrawals in the West Bank, and Mr. Arafat seems ready to endorse American-sponsored security arrangements meant to stop politically inspired releases of Palestinians held for terrorist violence. New Israeli withdrawals and tighter supervision of detained terrorists are necessary steps for progress. President Bill Clinton will try to close both deals when he meets separately with Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat next month.

The Clinton administration has been more consistently supportive of Israel than its recent predecessors were. But Washington now correctly judges that it must be more active in promoting a fair and secure peace. Mr. Netanyahu tends to get bogged down in the coalition arithmetic of his fractious cabinet, often at the cost of diplomatic progress. Mr. Arafat has damaged the peace effort by vacillating on security despite promises to combat terrorism. An American role in prisoner releases would reassure Israel that Mr. Arafat would not free terrorists to pressure Israel or appease Hamas.

Agreement on new Israeli withdrawals is also crucial. The essence of the Oslo peace bargain remains land for peace, or, as Mr. Netanyahu prefers to phrase it, land for security. The Palestinians fully or partly control about 27 percent of the West Bank. Israel now needs to expand that to between 40 and 50 percent. That would reassure Palestinians that if they honor their security responsibilities, they can expect to gain authority over most of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The visible U.S. pressure is now directed at Mr. Netanyahu to get his cabinet in line. But Mr. Arafat must deliver on security as well, if Washington's efforts are to have any hope of success.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

A Rebuff for Turkey

If the European Union summit [on Dec. 13 and 14] ever comes to be regarded as historic, it is likely to be because of a historic mistake. Unless matters are put right, historians may look back to the Luxembourg meeting and judge it to be the occasion when Europe needlessly offended Turkey, thus increasing that country's sense of exclusion, its reluctance to reform, its awkwardness over Cyprus and NATO, and perhaps its readiness to embrace either Islamic or quasi-military rule. Not bad for two days' work.

Turkey may well seem unsuitable as a member of the EU. Yet the Turks do not expect instant admission. They expect, and deserve, only treatment as favorable as that given to the second group of applicants, which includes Bulgaria, Slovakia and other less than perfect democracies. The benefits for Turkey would be considerable. In time there would be economic dividends, but long before that the mere expression of willingness to treat the application seriously would have helped all those Turks who are trying to promote democracy, to settle the Kurdish problem and to reduce the influence of the generals.

Since the West needs a friendly, cooperative partner at the eastern end of the Mediterranean as much as ever — Iraq is vile, Iran uncertain, Central Asia and the Caucasus hardly placid — the Luxembourg rebuff seems astonishingly ill judged. Amends should be made as quickly as possible.

— The Economist (London).

Turkey once again finds itself in the role of a rejected suitor. The Turks are understandably angry, and Brussels bears a large part of the blame for the new ice age in Turkish-EU relations. Once again the Europeans have all too obviously caved in to Greek pressure. For years Athens has been using its own EU membership as leverage in its quarrel with Turkey over the Aegean and Cyprus, issues of secondary importance to the rest of Europe, and evidently can still succeed in getting its demands accepted as general European policy.

— Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Zurich).

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST
ESTABLISHED 1887
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Directeur de la Publication: Richard McClean

International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel.: (1) 41.43.93.00 Fax: Subscriptions, (1) 41.43.92.10; Advertising, (1) 41.43.92.12; News, (1) 41.43.93.38.
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U.K. Advertising Office, 63 Long Acre, London WC2 Tel (171) 836-4802, Fax (171) 240-2254
S.A.S. au capital de 1 200 000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126, Commission Paritaire No. 61337
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Communism Was Mass Murder From the Outset

By Tony Judt

NEW YORK — "Le Livre Noir du Communisme" ("The Black Book of Communism"), published in Paris last month, has aroused controversy. Edited by Stéphane Courtois, a respected historian of French communism, it is an 800-page compendium of the crimes of Communist regimes worldwide, recorded and analyzed in ghastly detail by a team of scholars.

The facts and figures, some of them well known, others newly confirmed in hitherto inaccessible archives, are irrefutable. The myth of the well-intentioned founders — the good czar Lenin betrayed by his evil heirs — has been laid to rest for good.

No one will any longer be able to claim ignorance or uncertainty about the criminal nature of communism, and those who had begun to forget will be forced to remember anew.

The book has been angrily debated in Europe, with some of its contributors regretting their participation.

This is because Mr. Courtois, in his introduction, claims that we can no longer insist on the conventional distinction between communism and Nazism, which sets Hitler's state apart as a singularly terrible regime to which nothing can compare. Those very features of Nazism that we find most repellent have now been proved endemic to communism from its inception.

The time has come, he says, to acknowledge that mass crimes, systematic crimes, crimes against humanity marked both systems in equal measure. "Recent emphasis on the singularity of the genocide of the Jews, by concentrating attention on an exceptional atrocity, blurs our perception of affairs of the same order in the Communist world."

Mr. Courtois has a powerful case. In the course of a few decades, Communist regimes killed tens of millions of people. It is now estimated that in the Soviet Union about 20 million deaths, in Communist China perhaps 65 million and in Cambodia, North Korea, Vietnam and Eastern Europe a further 6 million can be directly attributed to the actions of Communist governments.

These mass murders were not the accidental byproduct of misguided policies but the outcome of willful, sometimes genocidal calculation.

By March 1918, Lenin's Bolshevik regime, then just five months old, had knowingly killed more of its political opponents than czarist Russia had in the whole preceding century.

In 1932 and 1933 the famine deliberately engineered by Stalin in the Ukraine destroyed about 6 million men, women and children.

Categories of people, real or imagined ("Cossacks," "kulaks," "bourgeois," "reactionaries"), were exterminated just for being who they were.

Concentration camps, forced labor and terror were elevated to a system of government. Communism transposed the language and conditions of wartime onto an ideological civil "front," bequeathing to modern radical politics a paramilitary language of interminable "conflict." A permanent civil war of party-state versus society began.

Its goal was an atomized oneness — different from that of Nazism only in its invocation of "class" instead of "race" and in its distinctive euphemisms. Nazis applied "special treatment" to the useless people they murdered. Communists "liquidated" those whom history, in their eyes, had already condemned.

Mass murder was not an unintended consequence but part of the project from the start. "The archives, and numerous witnesses," Mr. Courtois writes, "confirm that terror was from the outset a basic feature."

Communism started earlier, lasted longer and covered more continents than Nazism, he explains. "The fact is that Communist regimes committed crimes affecting about 100 million people, against some 25 million for Nazism."

WHY do so many, including some of Mr. Courtois's fellow scholars, recoil from his conclusions? In part because we are still heirs to the victorious alliance with the Communists that defeated Hitler. And in part because so many well-intentioned people beyond the reach of communism deeply needed to believe in it and defend it.

I well remember sitting in the graduate lounge of Cambridge University in 1969 while a tenured member of the economics faculty assured us that the Chinese Cultural Revolution was the last best hope for humankind.

Communism was applied in the "East" and justified in the "West," whereas Nazism was a Western abomination whose evils were experienced closer to home (and one that left behind a fuller, more accessible visual record of its achievements).

It is thus difficult for the left-liberal intelligentsia of the West, and not just in Paris, to let go of its memories and illusions, to reconcile itself to having been no wiser or better than fascism's many foreign admirers in the 1930s.

For this is the most enduring temptation of all — to distinguish communism from other political evils by virtue of its self-presentation as a path, however crooked, to human liberation.

Those are bad reasons for denying Mr. Courtois his conclusion. But there are better ones.

The main weapon of worldwide Communist mass murder, statistically speaking, was state-induced famine. Is this analogous to industrial-scale racial genocide?

Is it "communism" that links and explains the deeds of Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Kim Il Sung, Pol Pot and acolytes in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Angola, Poland and elsewhere? In name, yes, but in practice the Cambodian massacres, to take just one case, have more in common with the horrors of Rwanda and Bosnia than with Stalin's secretive, paranoid, targeted purges.

The tale of human cruelty in our times is too complicated to be captured by ideological labels alone, whether "left" or "right." And while "kulak" or "bourgeois" are arbitrary categories that authorize those wielding them to kill and torture anyone they like, their very arbitrariness also allows for redefinition, "re-education" or clemency in a way that was not open to people defined by rigorous criteria of inherited race and killed accordingly.

From the point of view of the exiled, humiliated, tortured or murdered victims, of course, it's all the same. And in the sorry story of our century, communism and Nazism are, and always were, morally indistinguishable.

That lesson took too long to learn, and it justifies a complete recasting and rewriting of the history of our times.

But we must keep in view a crucial analytical contrast: There is a difference between regimes that exterminate people in the inhuman pursuit of an arbitrary objective and those whose objective is extermination itself.

The writer is director of the Remarque Institute at New York University. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

For Asians, Too, Effective Economics Is Humanitarian

By Fred Hiatt

WASHINGTON — In the contentious world of economists and foreign aid experts, something remarkable is taking place: agreement. On many key questions there are now answers, based on real data.

It is not yet clear that this emerging consensus is informing policy as much as it could — for example, in the international rescue of Asian nations in distress. There the risk is that poor people will bear the brunt of the pain, in defiance not only of humanitarian logic but of the new economic understanding.

Skepticism of foreign aid is by now a familiar story. As Catherine Gwin, senior vice president of the nongovernmental Overseas Development Council, explains, it stems in part from the early 1980s, when debt crises in Latin America and persistent poverty in Africa led many to conclude that aid simply didn't work.

Critics on the right faulted foreign aid for sustaining bloated bureaucracies, both in UN organizations and in Third World governments. On the left, critics alleged that rich nations were foisting on developing countries pro-growth economic policies that enriched elites while actually harming the poor and increasing inequality.

These debates raged with religious intensity. But the past 15 years have seen an accumulation of research that allows the debate to move beyond faith and ideology. The result, Ms. Gwin and her associate, Joan M. Nelson, recently wrote, is that "the basis exists today for a broader consensus on development strategies than at any time in many decades."

What do we now know? For one thing, that foreign aid, on average, has not worked.

As the Oxford University economist Paul Collier recently summarized current research, foreign aid on average has not raised growth rates, has not lessened poverty and has not brought about improved economic policies. Huge sums of money, accompanied by endless hectoring, lecturing and setting of conditions, have had, on average, zero impact.

That might end the discussion right there, except that behind the average Mr. Collier finds something else. Given to governments pursuing bad policies, aid doesn't work, and may even make things worse. But where governments are doing the right things, the right kind of aid actually can make a major, positive contribution.

Give advice to bad governments, Mr. Collier says, but give money only to the good.

There is more, though. The long-running, left-versus-right debate about growth versus poverty reduction is over, too. It turns out, reports the World Bank economist Martin Ravallion, that economic growth is essential to poverty alleviation, as the right has argued. Growth almost always helps poor people, and it does not — despite years of economists' orthodoxy to the contrary — lead, on average, to increased inequality.

But — and here the left chimes in — programs aimed at poverty alleviation are crucial to economic growth. Not only that, but countries with high rates of inequality seem less likely to grow fast and less likely to share evenly the fruits of such growth as they do enjoy.

You need both, in other words: sound economic policies, including openness to trade and the free market, and sound social policies, especially free primary education and basic health care. You need the social policies for economic reasons, just as you need the economic policies for their good social effects.

These findings will not end all debate. In some ways, as Ms. Gwin points out, they simply lead to new questions. If it makes sense to help only the good governments, what moral obligation do we have to poor people suffering under bad ones?

What about countries that fall somewhere in between or that launch positive reforms but have trouble sticking to them?

Similarly, helping poor people makes economic sense, but how much can you give before risking economic imbalance and hurting the poor in the long run?

No countries have answered these questions better, or more clearly shown the positive connections between economic growth and alleviating poverty, than those now suffering through financial crises: South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia. South Korea's economy grew tenfold in three decades, almost eliminating poverty, and the Southeast Asian nations, starting later, have made comparable progress. All invested in primary education and health care.

Now, because of the collapse of their banking systems and other structural problems, they have had to turn to the International Monetary Fund for rescue, and the IMF has committed tens of billions of dollars. This money will help protect foreign banks and wealthy investors who made unwise loans, while millions of poor people already are being thrown out of work.

In Thailand and Indonesia, as an Oxfam International report pointed out this month, when city-dwellers lose their jobs, countless more villagers, who depended on those urban paychecks, may go hungry.

What is the answer? Not a populist railing against the IMF; if it didn't apply tough medicine, these nations' crises would worsen, and poor people certainly would suffer the most. But the international community's emergency help should reinforce what these nations already have learned about the importance of helping the poor, not work against it.

The IMF is right to insist on stricter standards of banking supervision, but it should insist just as emphatically on labor rights in Indonesia, job promotion in Thailand, unemployment insurance in South Korea and education everywhere. These are not just issues of compassion, we now know. They are essential to economic recovery and future growth.

The Washington Post.

It's Time to Think Straight About Saddam

By John K. Cooley

NICOSIA — Past equivocation weakens today's U.S. efforts, through the United Nations, to find and destroy Iraq's presumed terror weapons.

Saddam's foolhardy invasion of Kuwait enabled President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker to assemble and lead a crushingly powerful military coalition to eject Saddam from Kuwait and remove the threat he posed to Western oil resources.

Today, of those coalition allies, only Britain seems willing to join in sending military might against Saddam again, if the UN arms inspectors are blocked.

Before the Russian-brokered return of the inspectors on Nov. 21, there was a hint of desperation in the way Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and her aides vainly tried to cobble the old coalition back together. Even Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were unwilling to join U.S. military action, short of a direct military provocation by Saddam.

Past unwillingness to acknowledge the Saddam threat for what it is has seriously weakened the U.S. political posture in the region. Traditional foes of Iraq such as Syria, which opposed it in the Kuwait war, are drawing closer to Baghdad. With the stalling of the Arab-Israel peace process, they fear a future war with Israel in which restored Iraqi power could be crucial.

Jordan, squeezed between Saddam and a desire to preserve the battered 1994 peace treaty with Israel, joins the chorus demanding an easing of the UN embargoes on Iraq.

Weary Iraqi foes of Saddam appear to have suspended hope of establishing a U.S.-recognized Iraqi government in exile.

Turkish military occupation of areas of northern Iraq, in pursuit of dissident Kurds, indirectly further strengthens Saddam's power in the north, because it strengthens his temporary Kurdish allies and weakens his Kurdish adversaries.

Added to all this is a fundamental perception in the Middle East that Washington has never really been serious about removing Saddam from power. Evidence supports this, and much of it is found in the world of oil and the politics of oil.

U.S. concerns about safeguarding Western oil supplies were uppermost when the allied coalition went to war against Saddam in 1991 — just as they must be today, along with fear of his weapons. But in 1991, not all the sins were on Saddam's side.

Many oilmen in the West understood that Kuwait and others kept oil prices down by overproducing, which was one of Saddam's grievances.

Also, there is evidence that Kuwait was engaged in slant-drilling of Iraqi oil, under the border. As one oil executive put it, slant-drilling is enough to get you shot in Texas or Oklahoma.

True, the Kuwait-Iraq border was poorly demarcated.

A few days before the August 1990 Iraqi invasion, the Bush administration, according to Iraqi transcripts, had its ambassador in Baghdad, April Glaspie, tell Saddam that the United States took "no position" on those boundaries. (The State Department, without contesting that version of the ambassador's instructions, said that she had cautioned Saddam against rash action against Kuwait.)

U.S. waffling with Saddam goes back much further. After attacking his unpopular neigbor and adversary Iran in 1980, which was then considered a greater threat to Western interests than Iraq, Saddam apparently believed that he had the hidden support of the Reagan and Bush administrations — until in the spring of 1990 he threatened Israel openly with attack by chemical weapons.

The United States gave Saddam critical military intelligence on Iran, generous loan guarantees, and sales of dual-use equipment such as helicopters. It encouraged or turned a blind eye to assistance from American private industry and Europe to Iraq's conventional and nuclear armament efforts, such as France's rental to Iraq of Super Etendard fighter-bombers to attack Iranian oil targets.

General Norman Schwarzkopf, supreme allied commander in the Kuwait war, has confirmed that President Bush ordered him to end that war once Kuwait was freed, rather than follow through to Baghdad to destroy his regime.

Many in the Mideast see Saddam as the devil the United States loves to hate, whom successive U.S. administrations have preferred to keep in power in a weakened condition.

Every time the United States wounds him with a cruise missile attack or other minor military punishment, his domestic image grows and so does his neighbors' fear, which is changing into a kind of respect.

The UN embargoes help to satisfy these neighbors by keeping all but the small humanitarian Iraqi oil exports of the UN oil-for-food program (plus some oil smuggled to neighbors) off the world market. (This month Saddam suspended the oil-for-food exports, insisting that the United Nations must improve distribution of food and medicine.)

This serves the main ally of the United States, Saudi Arabia, by giving the Saudis what was, before the war and the embargoes, the Iraqi market share of more than 3 million barrels a day.

As long as Saddam or another Iraqi regime chooses to conceal evidence of terror weapons, no inspection is ever likely to discover all of it. The know-how, in any case, remains locked in the minds of Iraqi scientists and technicians and any foreign helpers.

Today there seem to be two possibilities, both unpleasant.

A first would be for the United States and Britain to acquiesce in the Russian-French-Chinese policy in the Security Council. Most Muslim allies of the United States, vexed by their perception that it does nothing to push Israel into a peace settlement with Syria or the Palestinians, support that policy. It amounts to tacit acceptance of Saddam's secret rearmament.

U.S. or British advocates of this, if there are any, might argue that the United States and Britain, with or without Israel, could undertake to destroy Saddam's arsenals and computer files through covert action.

The second possibility would be an all-out military offensive to forcibly remove Saddam and his thuggish family once and for all, and with them his despotic regime, from power.

No reasonable person can envy leaders who must make such hard choices. But is more waffling an option?

The writer, an American journalist and author covering the Middle East, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: U.S. in China

WASHINGTON — The United States has no interest in the territorial extension now going on in China, and will not make a landing at any of the coast ports of China as Germany and Russia have done. The only concern of the United States is to guard established American interests. At each of the American treaty ports in China there are American settlements and reservations, within which Americans may own property and try their civil and criminal cases before their own court. Some of the settlements are extensive, like that of Shanghai, occupying a wide sweep of land.

1922: Indians' Due

WASHINGTON — The Osage Indians are to have a real Christmas this year, as the United States Government has begun to hand out to 2,229 allottees of the nation checks of $3,400 each. This is the largest quarterly payment ever made and aggregates $7,500,000 from oil royalties on the Indians' lands.

1947: Negeb Pioneers

JERUSALEM — The Jewish Agency for Palestine rejected a recommendation of the British mandate government that Jews abandon as indefensible their twenty pioneer settlements in the Negeb, Palestine's big southern desert. The Negeb forms more than half of the proposed Jewish state and has a population of about 2,000 Jews and 60,000 Arabs. The Negeb settlements have been attacked at least five times during the Arab-Jewish fighting of the last three weeks. Because of their exposed position, and because they represent the initial Jewish move into the desert, they are occupied only by adults, most of them men.

صكذا من الأصل

OPINION/LETTERS

Public and Private Santa: Both Make Life Merrier

By E. J. Dionne Jr.

WASHINGTON — During the 1992 presidential campaign, Paul Tsongas always won cheers when he declared in his flat New England tones: "I'm not Santa Claus." Mr. Tsongas, prepared to cut spending and raise taxes, was making the point that too many politicians promise too much to too many.

One could only respect Mr. Tsongas's consistency and his readiness to take what seemed to be unpopular positions. His stands had more appeal than many expected, and he won a following for his stern strictures against deficits.

Still, for all the years since, I've wondered about his premise. What's wrong with Santa Claus?

I'm not thinking here of the family issue — should parents sell kids on a character who does not exist? On that one I have changed my mind several times. I was once of the belief that there was no sense in staking your parental credibility on a round guy in a red suit whose exploits are an invention.

I've grown softer on the bearded one over the years, partly because I suspect kids know what's going on and love the story anyway, and partly because I like the idea of Santa.

But if the idea of Santa is so attractive, why did everyone cheer Mr. Tsongas's line? The obvious answer is that he was talking about public money. He was saying he would not throw voters' cash around to get people to elect him as St. Nick.

It was a fair point, and it goes to the general problem of the public provision: If the government plays Santa, why should anyone do it on his or her own?

My son raised a version of this question when both his school and our church encouraged people to give Christmas gifts to a poor family. My son was eager to do it but wanted to know: Why was this necessary since Santa takes care of all the kids in the world? I mumbled something about Santa needing all the help he could get.

So, yes, it is dangerous to delegate all acts of generosity and caring. If government as Santa is presumed to do everything, the impulse for individual acts of kindness can be deadened.

The problem is that few of us play Santa often enough, or generously enough. Many of America's most generous social programs were launched during the Depression because we realized that private charity could not cover the needs of all who found themselves jobless and penniless. FDR wasn't Santa, but for a while he was just as popular.

But wouldn't we all step in if government didn't do it? Aren't the private resources there? They are not.

In an important article in Commentary magazine last month ("What Good Is Government?"), William Bennett and John DiIulio made the crucial calculations: "If all of America's grant-making private foundations gave away all of their income and all of their assets, they could cover only a year's worth of current government expenditures on social welfare." What would happen the next year?

They point to a study by Princeton's Julian Walpole of 125,000 charities each with receipts of $25,000 a year or more. Among them, they raise and spend $350 billion annually. That sounds like a lot until you realize that this is only about one-seventh of what is spent each year by federal, state and local governments.

Mr. Bennett and Mr. DiIulio, hardly enthusiasts of the old welfare state, conclude: "It is unlikely that Americans will donate much more than their present 2 percent of annual household income, or that corporate giving will take up any significant proportion of the slack in the event of future government reductions."

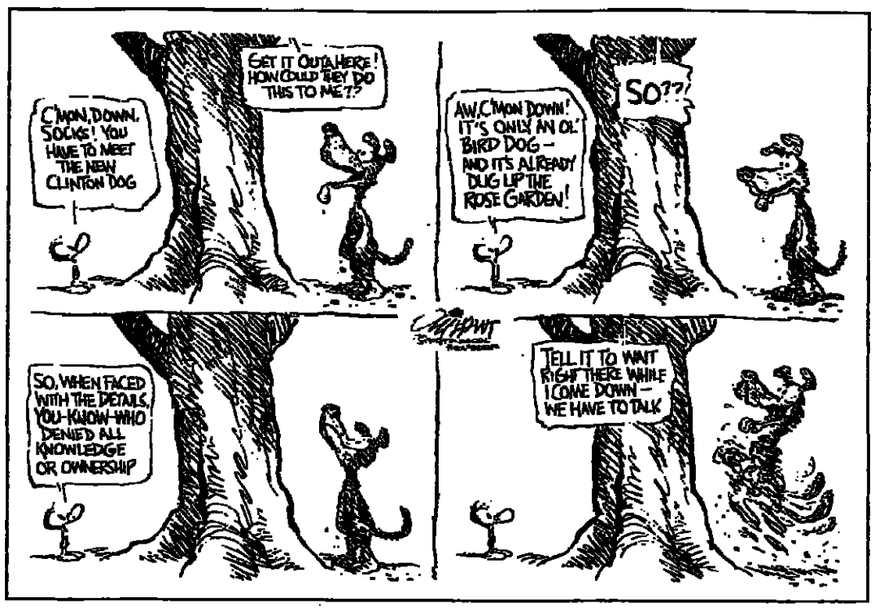
There is also a difference between social insurance and charity.

The retired and the temporarily unemployed, for example, should not have to depend on handouts. They have earned social protection.

At our best, we play Santa on our own and we play together. The money government gives the sick and the elderly and the poor does not come from some abstract entity out there called "the state." It comes from us. We pay for it and, when push comes to shove, we usually vote for it.

All things considered, it's good that we do. It makes life a little merrier, and if done right it breeds peace and goodwill.

Washington Post Writers Group.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Korea and the IMF

Regarding "South Korea Isn't Bankrupt, and Outsiders Had a Role" (Opinion, Dec. 17) by Philip Bowring:

Mr. Bowring's article makes an important point, namely that the Korean economy is fundamentally sound. It rightly identifies financial sector restructuring as the key priority for helping Korea regain investor confidence and resume a high economic growth path.

That is precisely why Korea's economic program — launched recently with the support of an International Monetary Fund standby arrangement that will provide Korea some $21 billion in balance-of-payments support over three years — aims at building a sound, transparent and more efficient system through its comprehensive restructuring and strengthening.

Indeed, and in contrast with traditional IMF programs, financial system reform is the centerpiece of this program, with a firm exit policy, strong market and supervisory discipline and market-opening measures to increase competition as its most important elements. The IMF is not administering "all-purpose medicine," as Mr. Bowring claims.

Mr. Bowring rightly notes Korea's historical record of low inflation, fiscal balance and small current account deficit. But he errs in suggesting that high interest rates can be avoided in a country coping with a crisis of confidence.

The IMF does not support keeping interest rates high for a moment longer than necessary, only until market confidence as reflected in movements in the exchange rate begins to be restored.

The experience of Mexico and Argentina in early 1995 showed that temporarily high interest rates can help stabilize the exchange rate: The real interest rate on 28-day Mexican treasury bills had to be jacked up to more than 20 percent in the spring of 1995 before the fall of the peso could be stemmed. More recently, three countries — the Czech Republic, Brazil and Russia — have successfully withstood pressures originating in the Asian crisis by raising short-term interest rates.

While painful, a sharp, temporary liquidity squeeze is sometimes the only way to avoid an exchange rate rout.

SHAILENDRA J. ANJARIA.
Washington.

The writer is director of the International Monetary Fund's external relations department.

Middle East Strategy

If the American-led powers are interested in protecting the lives of their citizens rather than pursuing vague strategic goals in the Middle East, they will drop the futile game of hunt-the-thimble with Saddam Hussein — who may well be hiding biological weapons in the mountains while giving the impression that they are hidden in a palace. In any case, one could never be certain that all such weapons had been detected.

The future danger to civilian populations will come less from states than from terrorist groups, which take their moral justification from poverty-stricken peoples who blame the West, not entirely wrongly, for their misery.

The West cannot resolve by aid or any other means Third World economic problems, which are mainly cultural in origin, nor can it completely contain the violence that results from these problems. But it should be a cardinal plank in Western foreign policy to avoid actions that will foment hatred of the West in the main breeding grounds of terrorist groups. Military action against Iraq, then, should be unthinkable.

BRIAN MAY.
Brussels.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Tossing the Septuplets Into the Media's Maw

By Frank Rich

NEW YORK — It was only five days after Kenny McCaughey told the world that he would not turn his septuplets into "a big show" and put them on "display" that he displayed them on NBC's big show, "Dateline."

It took only a few weeks more for the McCaugheys to hitch their star to a show-biz agent. On Wednesday it was announced they had

MEANWHILE

signed with Wes Yoder of Nashville's Ambassador Agency, which represents Christian recording artists like Susie Luchsinger and Rebecca St. James as well as such secular stand-up comics as Oliver North, Alan Keyes and Gary Bauer.

If Mr. North can just fake it through "Edelweiss," perhaps he and the McCaugheys will one day tour as the von Trapps in "The Sound of Music." And why not a remake of "The Seven Little Foys"? Or "Cheaper by the Half-Dozen (or So)"? Thanks to the McCaugheys, there will soon be one-stop shopping for any Hollywood director casting a new "Snow White."

Mr. Yoder was exuberant when I reached him by phone. He had been planning to expand his agency, and "all of a sudden," he said, "we have one of the leading clients anyone can hope for." His office was being deluged with offers; there had just been a first sighting of (unauthorized) McCaughey T-shirts in the family's Iowa hometown.

"I've already developed a list of companies I want to do business with," Mr. Yoder continued, speaking of potential commercial endorsements by the McCaughey parents.

When will the kids pitch in, too? "A year, two years, three — who knows when it's time?" The septuplets' potential college expenses alone require big bucks, he said, since they would not necessarily attend the schools that rushed to guarantee them free tuition during the "Wheel of Fortune"-like orgy of prize-giving following their births.

Could the public possibly get bored with the McCaugheys before they cash in? After all, modern fertility drugs might yet produce an even bigger "miracle" to upstage them.

"I think this story's going to have life for a long time, if it's not overexposed," Mr. Yoder answered.

If so, his clients will defy the odds with the fickle American audience. The Broadway musical "Side Show" tells the haunting true-life story of the Hilton sisters, conjoined twins who were stars for MGM and vaudeville's Orpheum Circuit in the '30s, only to be tossed into oblivion by their agent and the public once their novelty wore off.

More recently the Quesada quints, born in 1995 to Hispanic parents in California, were placed by an agent on TV's "Picket Fences" and "E.R.," then faded into obscurity once Anglo quints with competing show-biz ambitions were born nearby.

I asked Mr. Yoder about the open letter to the McCaugheys written in Time magazine by the surviving Dionne quints, '30s superstars who appeared at the Chicago World's Fair and in movies, lent their name to knickknacks and were exhibited to huge crowds in their own Quintland.

Saying that their lives had been "ruined," the Dionnes implored the McCaugheys to beware of using multiple births for entertainment or "to sell products."

Their missive concluded poignantly: "If this letter changes the course of events for these newborns, then perhaps our lives will have served a higher purpose."

Mr. Yoder knew of the letter but had not read it. He said he felt "sorry for the hurt" the Dionnes had suffered but added that "the point of the matter in the real world we live in is that you can't hide."

The McCaughey kids will "have something of a normal life" and their lives won't turn "totally into a circus" because no deal will be made unless it "strengthens Bobbi and Kenny's marriage," is "good for the family," is "done with integrity" and — most important — "honors God."

Is there a Christian way to toss children into the belly of the modern media beast that chews up celebrities and then spits them out the moment Americans get bored? Let us pray.

The New York Times.

ADVERTISEMENT

DESTINATION GREECE:
ADVENTURE

Tourism Plumbs the Depths of the Sea

Tourists to Greece seeking adventure can always hunt boar or paddle down the wild rivers of Western Greece, but these activities, while exciting, are not the newest thing that the country has to offer.

What is brand new is scuba diving at underwater archaeological parks. The first of these parks is scheduled to open next summer in Methoni, off the coast of Western Peloponnese. The site is near ancient Pylos, where a Mycenaean palace belonging to King Nestor — the mythical wise man of the Trojan War — was located.

"We are doing our best so that the park will be operational in 1998," says Dimitrios Kazianis, underwater research director of the Ministry of Culture's Archaeological Services.

"Originally, we were planning to organize a park in the area of Alonnissos, an island of the Northern Aegean where many shipwrecks were discovered," he adds, "but the depth of the various finds is over 30 meters [98 feet], and that makes it dangerous for the divers."

So, Mr. Kazianis explains, it was a lucky strike to find a ship in Methoni, next to the islet Sapienza. The ship is near an ancient fort that is now fully restored and that is used as a museum for underwater archaeology; the fort is also a center for the equipment and personnel required to run the park.

Film fame

The idea for an underwater archaeological park goes back at least a generation. In the waters around Greece, mainly in the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, over 1,000 ancient shipwrecks have been located. Most are loaded with archaeological treasures. For example, most of the bronze statues adorning museums around the world were discovered under the blue waters of the Aegean and Ionian Seas.

The treasures are, for the most part, art works purchased in or looted from Greece and destined for Rome. Owing to the treacherous weather of the Mediterranean and the lack of weather bulletins to warn ancient mariners of sudden storms, some of the ships did not make it to their destinations. Many of them sank after hitting shoals and rocks, only a few meters from the shore.

A number of ancient statues were found by fishers in whose nets ancient masterpieces like the Youth of Antikythira and the Youth of Marathon, now in the Archaeological Museum of Athens, were hauled up. Naturally, these art treasures lying at the bottom of the sea attracted treasure hunters, some of whom, officials believe, were able to find wrecks and steal important objects.

The statue featured in "The Boy on a Dolphin," starring Sophia Loren, Clifton Webb and Alan Ladd, is now in an Athens museum.

Greek authorities have tried to discourage private underwater searches by policing the areas where ancient shipwrecks have been identified. Coast Guard patrol boats routinely search suspicious yachts found anchored in areas where underwater antiquities might exist.

Several archaeologists, however, suggested that besides the looters who were looking for underwater finds, there were many genuine antiquity lovers and scuba divers who only wanted to enjoy the view of the shipwrecks and the underwater beauties of the Greek seas. For these art lovers, they proposed, Greece should provide an underwater archaeological park.

"The site in Methoni, where antiquities are only between 7 and 9 meters deep, sounded ideal because of the existence also of the fort and other antiquities inland," says Mr. Kazianis, whose department is working day and night to complete the preparations for the park.

The magic of shipwrecks

The Methoni Center will provide tourists with scuba equipment, and they will be accompanied by experienced divers who will guide them and provide security, says Mr. Kazianis. The center will also provide glass-bottom boats for tourists who do not want or cannot dive to see the antiquities.

The center has about one acre of underwater antiquities, which include vases, columns and sarcophagi, says Mr. Kazianis. The 50-year-old archaeologist disclosed that an important prehistoric site was recently discovered in Kranidi, Eastern Peloponnese, at a depth of only four meters.

"This was a settlement of the early Greeks dating back to 2,700 B.C., and it is connected with finds discovered in a cave in Argolis," he says.

Sites such as these, once they have been evaluated by archaeologists, might also become underwater parks.

Last month, a ship from the Hellenistic period was found near Herakilon, in Crete, and last summer, 13 shipwrecks were found in the Saronic Gulf near Athens and in Halkidiki (northern Greece).

"The best area, however, is around the island of Alonnissos, which was a passage and where we are now studying one fifth-century B.C. shipwreck. It is a very important find because we also found there a part of the ship's wooden hull," says Mr. Kazianis. He explains that the wood has been preserved all these centuries because it is covered by sand, and "sand is the best preserver of wood."

Delicate operation

About 30 years ago, an ancient merchant ship was found under the sand near the port of Kerynia in Cyprus. Archaeologists were able to remove it from the sea and to preserve it in the museum of Kerynia. A replica of the ancient ship was built, which is now touring museums in the region.

Among the recent finds lifted from ancient shipwrecks, says Mr. Kazianis, are bronze statues near Kalymnos in the Dodecannese islands.

The treasures include a bust of a Macedonian king, a female body and a dolphin. These are being processed to ensure their preservation and will soon be exhibited in Athens.

Culture Ministry officials believe that the archaeological underwater park will open new vistas for tourism and will also be a good training field for underwater archaeologists. As a ministry official explains, the work of an archaeologist is very delicate under normal circumstances and becomes extremely so under water. For this reason, archaeologists who want to work under water need extensive practical training.

Mr. Kazianis says that although Methoni will be the first underwater archaeological park, "there are other underwater parks for tourists who want to inspect underwater beauty or corals or marine life for environmental purposes. It was from them that we were inspired, but we advanced one step further." ●

Visitors can enjoy marine life and ancient treasures while scuba diving or riding in a glass-bottom boat.

"DESTINATION GREECE: ADVENTURE"
was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune.
It was sponsored by the Greek Tourism Organization.
WRITER: *John Rigos, based in Athens.*
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: *Bill Mahder.*

INTERNATIONAL

Behind Nigeria's Report of Coup Plot, Deep Cracks in Military

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Just seven months before a long-promised return to democratic rule, the announcement of an aborted coup by associates of General Sani Abacha has underscored the instability of Africa's most populous country and added to already widespread doubts about Nigeria's shaky transition program.

The news of a coup attempt Sunday reportedly involving General Abacha's second in command, General Donaldson Oladipu Diya and 11 others, including two other senior generals, was broadcast on national television late Sunday.

Diplomats and Nigerian analysts said they had no way of knowing whether the charges of coup plotting were valid, or fabricated — as has often been the case under Nigeria's murky system of military rule, as a justification for getting rid of potential rivals or critics within the army.

What most analysts were unanimous in saying, however, was that the arrest of General Diya signals deep divisions within the Nigerian military and reflects mounting tensions over General Abacha's apparent intention to remain in office by engineering his own election as president.

"Whether there was a coup plot or not is almost irrelevant to what happens next in Nigeria," said a West African diplomat with long experience of the country.

"Abacha has decided to press forward with plans to get himself elected, and has apparently figured the only way to succeed is by stepping up the repression," the diplomat said. "The problem is that each crackdown brings new enemies, and now this process has gone so far as to lead to his own doorstep."

During much of General Abacha's rule, international attention has been focused on Congo, the huge central African nation formerly known as Zaire, whose political future was widely seen as a key determinant of whether much of this continent will know peace or chaos in the years ahead. Many diplomats now say, however, that the stakes for the continent in an unstable Nigeria, with a population of 104 million, or twice that of Congo, are higher still.

Rising political violence or an acceleration of Nigeria's economic decay, for example, would affect neighboring countries, erasing economic gains and progress toward democratic rule in the region. A full-blown civil war, like the devastating conflict Nigeria experienced in the 1960s, meanwhile, would inundate many other countries, possibly including European ones, with refugees.

"Nobody wants to see Nigeria explode, but the fuse is burning and it goes almost unnoticed," said another senior West African diplomat.

"What is certain is that if it goes off, we will all go with it, and the price tag for bringing this region back will make rebuilding Zaire look like peanuts."

Already, during his four years in power, General Abacha has operated what one Western diplomat characterized as a "rolling purge," prematurely retiring or arresting hundreds of mid-level officers in a bid to keep potential enemies off balance and place loyalists in command positions throughout the country's 77,000-man armed forces.

Many expressed surprise, however, by the announcement that General Diya, effectively Nigeria's vice president and a publicly enthusiastic booster of General Abacha, should have been the latest victim.

Moreover, the fact that General Diya and nearly all of those arrested Sunday are ethnic Yoruba who hail from the country's already deeply disaffected southwest was seen by some as provocation at a time when this country of powerful regional rivalries is entering a period of renewed civilian politicking.

General Abacha, like his inner core of senior officers, and much of the army's rank and file, are Hausa-speaking northerners.

General Abacha's move against a group of prominent Yoruba officers, coming after his 1994 jailing of Moshood Abiola — a wealthy Yoruba politician who is widely believed to have won the country's most democratic elections a year earlier — will be seen by many in the southwest as rubbing salt into an open wound.

Even before the announcement of General Diya's arrest, General Abacha's transition program for a return to civilian rule had begun to look less and less like the carefully managed return to democracy that it was claimed to be and more and more like a clumsily improvised script to return the president to office in civilian guise.

General Abacha celebrated his fourth year in office last month with a series of events that seemed designed to signal his intention to cling to power. These included the distribution of hundreds of Abacha-brand television sets imported for the occasion, the distribution of Sani Abacha lapel buttons and release of the work of a presidential commission, titled Vision 2010, intended to lay out a blueprint for the country's economic future.

The manufactured cheer around an expected Abacha candidacy has failed to change the president's unpopularity, however, or the widespread disillusionment over his transition program.

Living standards have continued to slip during General Abacha's rule, even as the president and tightly knit circle of allied officers and foreign business people have raked in fortunes estimated at $3 billion and $4 billion by the London-based newsletter, Africa Confidential.

Almost all of Nigeria's wealth is generated by being the world's seventh-largest oil exporter.

The 54-year-old General Abacha, whose public appearances are few and whose appearance has become increasingly sallow is widely reported to be seriously ill, afflicted with kidney disease, according to some, and cancer, according to others.

Reuters

General Diya, one of those arrested, was the No. 2 to Nigeria's leader.

Panel Affirms Milosevic Ally As President

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BELGRADE — The Serbian election commission said Monday that Milan Milutinovic, the Socialist candidate, had been elected president of Serbia and that the turnout of the 7.2 million electorate exceeded the necessary legal minimum.

It reported that Mr. Milutinovic won 58.65 percent of the vote in Sunday's second-round runoff compared with 38.14 percent for his challenger, Vojislav Seselj, the Radical Party leader.

Nebojisa Rodic, secretary of the commission, said 50.53 percent of the electorate had voted and added: "This unequivocally indicates that voting for the president of Serbia was successful."

The Radicals said their estimates showed the turnout was under 50 percent and accused the Socialists of rigging the result.

Mr. Milutinovic, Yugoslavia's foreign minister, was the candidate of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic.

But international observers described the elections as "fundamentally flawed" and Mr. Seselj, an ultranationalist, called the vote fraudulent, saying he might challenge the results.

An observer mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe reported several irregularities, including possible rigging of the turnout and results in the province of Kosovo.

The foreign monitors also reported the bias of state media in favor of Mr. Milosevic's protégé, who "enjoyed a considerable advantage over Mr. Seselj both in quantitative and qualitative terms."

Mr. Milosevic became president of the Yugoslav federation in July after being constitutionally barred from a new term as Serbian president. The federation is comprised of Serbia and Montenegro.

It was the fourth time in three months that Serbia tried to elect a successor to Mr. Milosevic.

Mr. Milutinovic and Mr. Seselj were the top vote-getters in the last election on Dec. 7, but neither had the 50 percent of ballots cast required to win the presidency outright. First-round voting in September also failed to produce a winner, and an October runoff was invalidated because of low turnout.

(Reuters, AP)

Reuters

Bosnian youngsters waiting for President Clinton to pass by in Sarajevo on Monday.

CLINTON: *In Bosnia, President Speaks to Ethnic Leaders*

Continued from Page 1

signed in Dayton into a living reality. In the end, the future is up to you, not to the Americans, not to the Europeans, not to anyone else."

Of their responsibility, Mr. Clinton said, "Those who shirk it will isolate themselves. The world, which continues to invest in your peace, rightfully expects that you will do your part. More importantly, the people of this country expect results and they deserve them."

Mr. Clinton's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, said Mr. Clinton "went leader by leader, name by name, and was very tough, telling them they have to do their part." He said the only tension came when Mr. Clinton asked the leaders of the three-man presidency — Momcilo Krajisnik for the Serbs, Alija Izetbegovic for the Muslims and Kresimir Zubak for the Croats — to turn over war criminals for trial by an international tribunal.

The Bosnian Serb president, Biljana Plavsic, who replaced Radovan Karadzic, who is accused of being a war criminal, was cautious in her comments.

"I've told him that nothing can be implemented after a war very quickly," she said to reporters after separate meeting with Mr. Clinton. "We asked for patience and, slowly, one can expect results, but certain things cannot be implemented quickly."

In addressing the troops, Mr. Clinton said the North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces already had achieved much. "Bosnia is no longer the powderkeg at the heart of Europe," he said.

"We ought to stay here, finish the game and take home the win for the world and for freedom," he said, recalling that it was Mr. Dole who said it would make no sense to leave the field on the verge of success.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, also wearing a leather jacket, told the soldiers the people back home "will say a special prayer for you."

"I know that during this holiday, when my family is together, one of the things we'll be grateful for is the service you perform," she said.

The president's 17-year-old daughter, Chelsea, was visibly moved when Bosnian children presented the Clintons with hand-drawn Christmas cards. She wiped away tears as they sang, "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands."

Last week, Mr. Clinton announced that the U.S. stay here would continue for an indefinite period. He said it had been a mistake to fix a June 1998 deadline for ending the mission, which he had extended twice.

The president was clearly moved by his visit to Sarajevo. He described the war years during which people ran a gantlet of snipers and shells in search of water and food. "Now, they walk in security to work and school." Mr. Clinton traveled to Bosnia once before, in January 1996, when U.S. troops were just settling in. Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea last visited the region in March 1996.

BOYS: *Juvenile Banter Dismays Women in the House of Commons*

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101 from the Labour Party — were elected to the House of Commons.

Trained in local politics and labor unions, where modern rules of interaction between the sexes apply, they pronounced themselves astonished by the weird time-warp inside Parliament.

"It's not something I can't cope with, but it's inappropriate and childish," Ms. Griffiths said. "The MPs who have been schoolteachers say they use techniques they used in classrooms, like the withering stare to the naughty boy at the back of the classroom. But what makes me cross is that it's the wrong battle to have to fight."

There are signs that women are slowly changing things inside Westminster. Men's bathrooms now say more than just "Members," on the outside, to prevent women from barging in by mistake. The House of Commons' traditional barber has been replaced by a new "salon," offering perms and elaborate hair-styling.

And a Labour parliamentary committee is examining ways of modernizing Parliament, including streamlining some of the cumbersome debating rules and possibly replacing the shooting gallery, where legislators play with their guns, with a day-care center where they can look after their children.

But, despite a growing propensity for American-style sensitivity in the rest of Britain, many men in Parliament appear to be clinging happily to their old ways.

In the House of Commons, legislators are not allowed to swear or to call their colleagues liars. But they are allowed to shout, "Mine's a gin and tonic, Luigi!" as Nicholas Soames, a former Tory minister, does at the deputy prime minister, John Prescott, who once worked as a bartender on a Cunard liner.

They are allowed to make cuttingly humorous remarks, as William Hague, the Tory leader, did when Prime Minister Tony Blair congratulated him last week on his forthcoming wedding. "As your honeymoon is coming to an end," Mr. Hague said, "mine is about to begin."

And they are allowed to "bark like werewolves" as they do when Desmond Swayne, a Tory, starts to speak.

"One day when I got up, my hair was all over the place," Mr. Swayne said. "I'm the MP for New Forest and someone — I don't know who it was, I think he was sitting behind Dennis Skinner — said, 'Eh, it must be a full moon.'"

"It doesn't put me off," said Mr. Swayne, who is no stranger to the rough-and-tumble of political discourse: he once joined a debate on women in combat by quoting St. Bernard of Clairvaux as saying, "To be always with a woman and not to have intercourse with her is more difficult than to raise the dead." (A petition was passed around, denouncing him for his "offensive" remark.)

Mr. Swayne said that he had never seen his colleagues making rude gestures in reference to breasts or other body parts.

"It can only be described as lewd behavior, the sort of behavior I would have thrashed a boy for when I was a schoolmaster," he said. "If you believe what these women say, it seems that all we do is sit there and cat-call each other. But look at the debates we've had in the last few months — they've all been perfectly reasonable arguments."

"The fact that every now and then they're punctuated by a joke and a few ribald comments — well, that's part of our tradition," he added.

Indeed, many old-time politicians are incensed that the women have even spoken out at all.

"This sort of blubbing and whining just shows that a lot of these women are absolute drips," Mr. Soames, the former Tory minister, who is often known by his schoolboy nickname, Fatty, told The Times of London. "Their complaints are ridiculous. If they can't take it, they should get out."

Anne McElvoy, a political columnist for The Daily Telegraph, said the women should regroup and stage a counterattack.

"The House of Commons is overwhelmingly male, and the institution has been shocked by all these women coming in," she said. "They should try to use it to their advantage. Some of the Tory backbenchers are very sexist, and what we need is a Dorothy Parker who can slap them down."

Nicola Jennett/IHT

Flight to Baghdad Defying Sanctions Is Stopped by Iran

Reuters

BAGHDAD — The Iranian authorities prevented a Russian plane carrying food and medical aid from continuing its flight to Baghdad on Monday, an Iraqi official said.

The official asked not to be identified and gave no further details.

The head of the Iraqi Parliament's Arab and International Committee, Saad Qasim Hamoudi, said that no permission had been obtained from the United Nations sanctions committee to allow the plane to fly to Baghdad.

UN sanctions have grounded the national carrier and halted all trade with Baghdad except for essential goods.

An Iraqi official said that aboard the flight were Russian members of Parliament and food and medical donations to Iraqis suffering from sickness and malnutrition resulting from the UN sanctions imposed after the Gulf War in 1991.

Several members of the Iraqi Parliament and other officials were at the airport waiting for the plane.

The director-general of Iraqi Airways, Rabee' Mohammed Saleh, said that there were 30 people aboard and that the plane had been chartered by the Russian party headed by Vladimir Zhirinovsky, an ultranationalist.

Earlier, reporters and Western television crews returned from Saddam International Airport outside Baghdad after waiting several hours for the plane to land.

GAMES: *Late Holiday Surprise! There's Method to the Madness on the Computer Screen*

Continued from Page 1

in front of a computer. Yet these problems are seen mainly as matters best dealt with by parental guidance and common sense rather than as unsettling threats to the mental health of young people.

"There has been a real shift from people being afraid that computer games would dry up kids' brains to the view that there are good things about them," said Idit Harel, a former research scientist at the MIT Media Laboratory who has founded an Internet media company, Mamamedia Inc., that produces educational games for children.

Mr. Pajitnov, who joined Microsoft last year, introduced millions of people to a potent blend of skill, concentration and compulsion found in the best computer games. He designed Tetris, perhaps the most irresistibly habit-forming computer game ever. Tetris, an elegantly simple puzzle game requiring the player to reorder cascading geometric shapes, sold 40 million copies on every format from personal computers to Nintendo hand-held video-game players.

For Mr. Pajitnov to even approach his past success will be a long shot. So much has changed in the computer game industry since the late-1980s, when Tetris arrived. Today's hit games, like Myst, Quake and Civilization II, tend to be Hollywood-style productions with three-dimensional animations and elaborate musical scores.

At Microsoft, Mr. Pajitnov is laboring to revive the popularity of computer puzzle games, which ebbed during the 1990s as the industry focused mainly on action games. Even Mr. Pajitnov succumbed. After emigrating from Russia in 1991, he tried his hand at a couple of "shoot 'em up" games, but without great success. "I keep coming back to the puzzles," he said. "I feel really good at them."

In July, Mr. Pajitnov's first effort, Microsoft Entertainment Pack: The Puzzle Collection, a CD-ROM with 10 puzzles, hit store shelves. So far, sales have ranged from 2,500 to 5,000 copies a month — not a hit, but probably a moneymaker, says Ann Stephens, president of PC Data Inc., a research firm.

Mr. Pajitnov's current project, it seems, is another modest beginning. The picture puzzle game tested recently in Microsoft's computer lab is one offering a collection of logic, word and image puzzles called Mind Aerobics. The collection was released earlier this month on the company's on-line service, which charges subscribers a monthly fee. Later, the puzzles may also be placed on a stand-alone Web site, available to anyone with Internet access.

The intent of Mind Aerobics is not to lure people into hour after hour of play but, as its name suggests, provide users with 20 or 25 minutes a day of intense "exercise for the brain."

One mental workout is a picture puzzle called Rotascope. It appears on the screen as a fractured circular image, fragments of a picture, scrambled in concentric rings. The player chooses from three levels of difficulty. At level three — the hardest — there are five concentric rings of distorted pieces of a picture.

One space is vacant, allowing the pieces to be moved, sorted and rearranged. It is straightforward at first, pieces slipping into place, points racking up. It seems simple. It is not. The path to completion can be torturous — point, click, drag, faster and faster.

The puzzles are being offered on-line because that is where the computing audience is heading. "Soon everyone who uses computers will be on the Net," Mr. Pajitnov said. "So if I want to establish the puzzle, expose as many people as possible to this intellectual pleasure, I have to get them on the Net."

The Internet is seen as the future of gaming, and most experts agree that future will be far more than action games. By 2001, the number of on-line game players will nearly triple, to 18.4 million people, while revenues will surge twelvefold, to $1.6 billion, mostly from advertising, estimates Forrester Research Inc.

Most of the growth, says Seema Williams of Forrester, is going to have to come not from the die-hard action-game audience of post-adolescent males but from increasing numbers of women and people of all ages who play games only a half-hour a week or so. Puzzle games do well with this wider audience.

"If the on-line game market is going to become mainstream, it is going to have to move beyond Quake to things like puzzles, the kinds of things that Alexey Pajitnov knows so well," Ms. Williams said.

Turkey Says Envoy Of Greece Was Spy

New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — The Turkish government said Monday that it was expelling a Greek diplomat accused of spying, setting off another round of recriminations between the two countries.

"One of the administrative officials in the Greek consulate in Istanbul was found engaging in activities incompatible with his status and was asked to leave Turkey," a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Sermet Atacanli, said. "He was engaged in intelligence-gathering operations."

The Greek ambassador was called to the Foreign Ministry and told that Mr. Haralambus had seven days to leave. He said later the diplomat had already departed and would not return. Turkish newspapers said he had been caught photographing military bases and seeking information of use to Kurdish rebels. In Athens, Greek officials denied the charges and vowed to expel a Turkish diplomat.

JUNK: *Agency Slashes Credit Rating of 3 East Asian Nations*

Continued from Page 1

Thai government to sell $5 billion in international bonds — was intended to raise cash to replace billions of dollars in loans brokered by the International Monetary Fund.

Now those bond sales may be delayed or even scrapped as governments come to grips with the higher interest payments they will be forced to pay to investors as compensation for the risk of owning their bonds.

The private sector in all three countries, whose currencies have plunged in recent months, owe large amounts of short-term debt denominated in dollars.

Moody's said the downgrade reflected growing concern that tumbling currencies have inflated repayment costs to crippling levels.

"The East Asian financial crisis has exposed the vulnerability to changes in market confidence of a number of countries that had built up high levels of short-term liabilities," Moody's said.

The agency, one of the world's two major credit-risk assessors, with Standard and Poor's Corp., said weakness in the Japanese economy and banking system added a "further, negative backdrop to the prospects for the region."

Moody's also downgraded Malaysia, though not below investment-grade, and warned that Japan was not healthy enough to pull the region out of the crisis.

Slow growth in Japan limits the prospects for rapid export growth from the other countries, while the problems of Japanese banks limit their ability to maintain lending activity in the region, Moody's said.

For Indonesia, Moody's downgraded the foreign-currency ceiling for bonds to Ba1 from Baa3 and for bank deposits to Ba3 from Ba1. Moody's downgraded South Korea's ceiling for bonds to Ba1 from Baa2 and for bank deposits to B1 from Ba2. The ceiling for Thai bonds was downgraded to Ba1 from Baa3.

The rating for the long-term foreign-currency debt carried by 11 Thai financial institutions, including Bangkok Bank PCL, the country's biggest bank, was lowered to Ba1, signifying that debt issued by the institution was now deemed speculative, the equivalent of junk bonds.

Thai authorities recently shut down more than half of the country's finance companies. The country's finance sector was badly hurt when the long-standing peg to the U.S. dollar was abandoned in July and the currency fell from 25 baht per dollar to more than 45 baht.

For Malaysia, the ceiling for bonds was downgraded to A2 from A1 and for bank deposits to Baa1 from A1.

Moody's also lowered the ratings of three of Malaysia's largest publicly held companies — Tenaga Nasional Bhd., Telekom Malaysia Bhd. and Petroliam Nasional Bhd. — and the commercial banks Bank Bumiputra, Malayan Banking, and Public Bank.

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Wings and Things: The Fairies Come Out to Play

Christopher Moore

Thierry Mugler's sparkling fairy-queen look, left, and David Fielden's balletic dress.

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The party frock is fancy, tinselly and over-the-top. And fashion folk have just the insult to suit: "She looks like the fairy on the Christmas tree."

But that was last year.

This season, fairies have soared on their gauzy wings to the heights of fashion. In London, hallucinatory cavalcades of otherworldly creatures are mesmerizing visitors at an exhibition of fairy paintings. On the party scene, it looks like a magic wand has been waved over the hip crowd, as dresses are a-shimmer with translucent beading and the tiara is worn as nonchalantly as a necklace.

The runways too are a-flutter with fairies — and not just because of the diaphanous dresses worn in airy layers. Wings are even sprouting at shoulder blades as the ultimate accessory, to show that fashion has flipped from androgyny to femininity.

"All these disparate elements have come together to create a fairy moment. You know that enchantment is in the fashion air when Helmut Lang, modernistic Helmut Lang sends out meringue-light tulle skirts and calls his collection "urban angels"; when the hip Anna Sui offers a dress with butterfly wings, and when Karl Lagerfeld is inspired by a collection of fey dolls.

"Victorian Fairy Paintings" at the Royal Academy (until Feb. 8) puts it all into perspective. The weird and wonderful visions, the erotic undertones, the Puckish playfulness of the "little people" suggest something far more intriguing than sugar-plum sweetness. Even if the images later became sanitized as the cute Flower Fairies of Cecily Mary Barker's children's books, the earlier paintings are fantasies of a darker and more complex kind.

Here is an enchanted duo, entwined in a bird's nest, while the surrounding foliage teems with surreal Hieronymus Bosch-type creatures — the entire oil painting by John Anster Fitzgerald enclosed by a spiky frame of winter branches. Or there are Titania and Oberon from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," among a tumble of voluptuous, naked winged bodies in Joseph Noel Paton's paintings.

ABOVE all, there are the extraordinary and unsettling visions of the mad Richard Dadd, whose escape from *his insanity and incarceration in* Bedlam Hospital was to create the manic minutiae of fairy kingdoms that seem as twisted and grotesque as Grimm's fairy tales.

In a catalogue that is more comprehensive than the show itself, the various authors analyze the work of these pre-Freudian painters who seem to be "following darkness like a dream." If the sylvan tranquillity of the "faerey bowers" seems tense and menacing, you can take the barely veiled fairies as licensed eroticism and legitimized nudity in a sexually prim era. And what look like bacchanalian orgies might have been drug-induced fantasies. Some of Fitzgerald's dream-sequence paintings have direct references to the laudanum (a tincture of opium) that has been described as "the aspirin of the 19th century" and was used as a drug in artistic circles.

It does not seem a very big leap from the hallucinogenic visions of the Victorian Era to the 1990s image of the former grunge-rock star Courtney Love decked out as a trashy fairy, with tiara and lipstick askew, or of Madonna at the recent Versace gala in New York, with a star-patterned wizard's coat below her angelic blonde curls.

Sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll stars — is this really what fairies are about? There is also a strong element of escapism, found in the Victorian fascination with the occult and in spiritualism — mirrored in the alternative religious cults of modern times.

In fact, fairies probably seem fashionable now because there is a similar yearning for romance and fantasy in an ugly world felt by the Victorians when the industrial revolution overwhelmed their pastoral idyll.

Even that special relationship between little girls and fairies does not seem to have been broken by the advent of feminism. Rather the reverse. Just as the future Queen Victoria was a fan of the romantic ballet and worshipped the ballerina Marie Taglioni in "La Sylphide," the same graceful, romantic, bewinged style has a continuing allure for young girls dressing up. And the more so to a generation brought up in jeans.

Perhaps the key to this fairy thing in fashion can be found in the chorus of a Victorian music hall song:

"Oh, for the fairies, whoa the fairies,
Nothing but splendor and feminine gender,
Oh, for the wings of a fairy queen!"

After one generation took on sexism and manned the feminist barricades by appropriating men's clothes, there is a deliberate return to "the feminine gender" from avant-garde designers. From Marc Jacobs through Lang and Calvin Klein, come floating fabrics and tulle skirts, fanning out like the clothes of the proverbial fairy on the Christmas tree. Fairies are feminine. Fairies are modern. Fairies are super-cool.

Christopher Moore, Royal Academy of Arts

Lagerfeld's tinselly fairy gown, left; Anna Sui's butterfly wings, and "The Golden Age" by Thomas Heatherley.

BOOKS

ALWAYS OUTNUMBERED, ALWAYS OUTGUNNED

By Walter Mosley. 208 page. $23. Norton.

Reviewed by David Bradley

IN 1940 Richard Wright's "Native Son" exploded onto the American literary and social scene. With authenticity implied by its having been written by a black and based on a celebrated Chicago murder case, the novel immediately became a massive best-seller. Most reviewers labeled it as searing a protest against racism as Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" had been against slavery. Predicted Henry Seidel Canby, "No white man — and, I suspect, few Negroes — will finish this narrative without an enlargement of imagination toward the psychological problems of the Negroes . . . and an appreciable extension of sympathy."

Sympathy was not Wright's goal; his intention was to write a tale "so hard and deep" that readers "would have to face it without the consolation of tears." Accordingly, he created a protagonist, Bigger Thomas, who almost seems the prototype for contemporary criminology's "young black male." Bigger accidentally smothers a white socialite, then rapes and murders his black lover during a pathetic escape attempt. Awaiting execution for the murder of the socialite, he attempts to comprehend the forces that shaped his life — and fails.

One suspects no white readers — and few black ones — wept at Bigger's death. But one also suspects that for some Bigger confirmed bigotry rather than enlarged the imagination. Today, when blacks — and a few whites — are painfully aware of the threat men like Bigger pose to the black community, Wright's protest seems paradoxical, for in both a social and literary sense, Bigger is more a part of the problem than of the solution.

But now another black writer, Walter Mosley, author of the best-selling Easy Rawlins detective novels, has revisited Bigger in a powerful work of protest, "Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned." Though "Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned" is not a novel but a collection of stories, all share the character of Socrates Fortlow, a 58-year-old black ex-convict who dwells in unsplendid isolation in the Los Angeles ghetto of Watts, in a shack that even the landlord has forgotten. He subsists on the redemption of cans and bottles.

In youth Fortlow, like Bigger, murdered and raped. But unlike Bigger's, Fortlow's crimes were against blacks only; he was sentenced not to death but life. After 27 years in prison, during which he killed repeatedly, he was released. Though an old man, he went west. After one week in Los Angeles, he beat the blood and spirit from a young black named Rinnett. Though prison had not changed him, the encounter did. Fortlow saw how Rinnett gradually "grew older and more somber . . . meaner and shabbier," and, although he never spoke with Rinnett again, he found himself having "imaginary talks" with him.

To those used to detective fiction, this may sound boring. It is not. For Mosley invests mundane situations with moral peril and concomitant opportunities for growth. From tale to tale the problems grow in complexity, as Fortlow seeks, in the narrow space society affords him, nonviolent solutions that will also preserve his dignity.

Mosley has thought hard about the criminality in the black community. He has also thought about Wright's portrayal of Bigger; the parallels are abundant. But Mosley has made different — and arguably better — decisions. Wright limited himself to Bigger's point of view, which meant drab perceptions and an amoral consciousness. Mosley has enriched his descriptions with language *and imagery beyond Fortlow's ken*, and invested Fortlow with both a conscience and a voice. Bigger was inarticulate; Fortlow speaks with realistic simplicity and unsparing honesty.

The combined effect is so moving one cannot help but wish that Mosley had not only collected these tales but reshaped them to remove the repetitions needed for them to stand alone.

But one also cannot help but applaud not only what Mosley has done but the risk he has run in doing it. A successful commercial novelist, he could have sequestered himself with a proven character and genre. Instead, he created the story of Socrates Fortlow and challenged his audience to read it . . . and weep.

David Bradley, author of "The Chaneysville Incident," wrote this for The Washington Post.

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

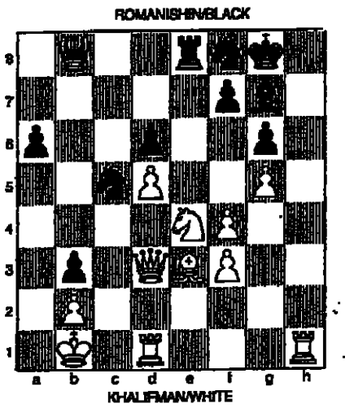
A SPIRITED Russian victory with a queen sacrifice was scored by Alexander Khalifman in the sixth round of the Fourth World Team Championship, against his former countryman, now Ukrainian, Oleg Romanishin.

Russia was represented by Yevgeny Bareyev, Peter Svidler, Aleksandr Khalifman, Sergei Rublevsky, Aleksei Dreyev and V. Svjaginsev.

The Petrosian System against the Queen's Indian Defense, with 4 Nc3 and 5 a3, avoids a Nimzo-Indian-style pin with ...Bb4. It would seem as though giving up a tempo with 5 a3 should not be worth it, but this mode of play is currently thriving.

Black's 5...g6 represents a minority viewpoint, yet Romanishin has favored it for years. The goal is not to balance the white center with 5...d5 but rather to maintain a flexible formation.

On 6 Qc2, if Black continues nonchalantly with 6...Bg7, he will find himself in an inferior setup in a King's Indian Defense after 7 e4. Thus, Romanishin played 6...Bf3, which gives White the bishop pair and relies on the resulting doubled f pawns to impede the enemy attacking possibilities.



Position after 25 . . . Nc5

It is unclear whether 7 gf might not have been preferable, the idea being that White can defend his d4 point with e3, if that becomes necessary. But Khalifman apparently wanted open lines for piece play.

Romanishin's 8...c5?! was dubious; a low profile with 8...d6 and 9...Nbd7 would have been harder for White to come to grips with.

While Romanishin had no real object of attack, Khalifman went after the black king with 12 g4!? d6 13 h4. After 13...Nbd7 14 g5 hg 15 hg, he had decisively opened the h file.

Romanishin's 19...b5 was a desperate move, but he already must have abandoned the thought of using a move to take his rook away from the bishop's attack.

He opened paths against the white king with 21...b4 22 ab Qb8 23 f3 cb, but after 24 Kb1 b3 25 Qd3 Nc5, Khalifman struck first with the tremendous 26 Bd4! Romanishin saw that 26...Re4 fails against 27 Bg7 Rf4 (27...Kg7 is cashiered by 28 Qc3) 28 Bf6 Rf6 29 Qd4. Also, 26...f5 27 Nc5 dc 28 Bg7 Kg7 29 Qc3 is crushing.

So Romanishin took the queen offered him with 26...Nd3, but after 27 Nf6 Bf6 28 Bf6, he gave up in the face of 28... Nh7 29 Rh7! Kh7 30 Rh1 Kg8 31 Rh8 mate.

QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENSE

White Khal'n	Black Rom'n	White Khal'n	Black Rom'n
1 d4	Nf6	15 hg	Nh7
2 c4	e6	16 f4	Re8
3 Nf3	b6	17 Bb5	Nhf8
4 Nc3	Bb7	18 0-0-0	a6
5 a3	g6	19 Bc6	b5
6 Qc2	Bf3	20 Ba8	Qa8
7 ef	Bg7	21 Ne4	b4
8 Bg5	c5	22 ab	Qb8
9 d5	h6	23 f3	cb
10 Be3	ed	24 Kb1	b3
11 cd	0-0	25 Qd3	Nc5
12 g4	d6	26 Bd4	Nd3
13 b4	Nbd7	27 Nf6	Bf6
14 g5	hg	28 Bf6	Resigns

Royal Academy of Arts

"Titania," 1866, by John Simmons.

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NYSE

Monday's 4 P.M. Close

The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.
Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	Sls 100s	High	Low	Latest	Chge
		A-B-C								
40½	24¼	AAR	.48	1.2	24	305	39¾	38¾	39¼	+¼
30 15/16	16¼	ABM	.48f	1.6	25	172	u31¼	30⅝	30¾	+⅜
24⅞	18½	ABN Am s	.56e	2.9	–	678	19½	19¼	19½	-⅛
101⅛	55¾	ACE Ltd	.96f	1.0	12	1022	94⅝	93⅝	93⅝	+⅛
11¼	10	ACM In	.90a	8.2	–	865	11	10⅝	11	+⅛
8⅝	7	ACM Op	.63	7.7	–	471	8¼	8⅛	8¼	+⅛
10⅜	8½	ACM Sc	.90	8.9	–	1600	10⅛	10	10⅛	–
7	6¼	ACMSp	.57	8.5	–	2443	6¾	6⅝	6¾	+⅛
15	12¼	ACMMD	1.35	9.6	–	584	14⅛	13⅞	14	+⅛
10⅛	9¼	ACM MI	.90	9.0	–	288	10⅛	10	10	–
14⅝	12½	ACMMu	.90	6.2	–	176	u14⅝	14½	14½	+⅛
24⅜	14	ACNiels	–	–	42	470	23	22¾	22¾	+⅛
27½	17¾	ACX Tech	–	–	–	684	24⅝	24½	24½	-½
49⅛	21⅛	AES Cp s	–	–	41	4028	41⅞	40⅛	40½	-1½
57⅝	37½	AFLAC	.46	.9	17	4926	50¼	49⅝	50⅛	+⅛

مكذا من الأصل

Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL

BUSINESS/FINANCE

For IMF Rescue Team, A Big Test of Credibility

Camdessus Tells of Pre-Crisis Meetings

By Paul Blustein
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, does not usually tell stories in public about his secret meetings with officials of financially strapped countries.

But at a press conference last week, he couldn't resist recounting how he and his deputy, Stanley Fischer, traveled to Seoul in November to warn top South Korean leaders privately that their economy was hurtling toward disaster.

"Mr. Fischer and myself visited Korea separately in a totally discreet way to tell the authorities that it was essential to take action with no delay," Mr. Camdessus said. "They had, as many others, a tremendous difficulty in recognizing the facts." By the time they began scrambling later that month, "it was too late," he said.

Inside: America's top banking regulator saw the Asian currency crisis coming — three years ago.

Seldom, if ever, in the IMF's 53-year history has it faced such a daunting challenge to its competence in maintaining global financial stability. Although the fund, acting in concert with the Clinton administration, has marshaled more than $100 billion in the past three months to bail out the economies of Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea, the financial crisis in Asia shows only spotty signs of abating.

Mr. Camdessus's disclosure of the meetings in Seoul was strategic, not impulsive, for he is defending the IMF against charges that it misjudged the crisis and is struggling to contain it.

Critics are citing the grim news from the region's markets as evidence that the IMF should change its approach for rescuing troubled economies. The fund doles out loans to countries that are short of the U.S. dollars and other currencies they need to pay obligations to foreigners. In exchange, the countries pledge to adopt belt-tightening measures and take steps to restructure their economies, such as scrapping government regulations and liberalizing their markets.

The IMF's credibility is on the line not only in Asia. On Dec. 12, it renewed a suspended credit line for Russia's cash-starved government, despite qualms among some experts about whether President Boris Yeltsin has the clout to implement reforms.

Nowhere, though, is an IMF program as dangerously close to collapse as in South Korea, which received a second, $3.5 billion installment of the $60 billion overall rescue package Thursday, the same day as a longtime dissident, Kim Dae Jung, won the nation's presidency.

IMF officials predict that South Korea and its ailing Asian neighbors will recover because, after an initial period of half-heartedly accepting the need for economic change, they are starting to move more aggressively. One example is Seoul's decision last week to allow interest rates to soar, which helped buoy the won.

"Now we must be patient and persevere on our side in supporting these programs, as the countries themselves must persevere in implementing them," a senior IMF official said. "These programs do not have immediate miraculous effects. No, here we are dealing with confidence; it is very difficult to rebuild it sometimes."

At the U.S. Treasury, officials recall how the 1995 rescue of Mexico suffered through a nerve-racking couple of months during which the peso remained quite weak. And they argue that although Mexico had to endure a deep recession, the pain for Mexicans and the calamity in global financial markets would have been far worse had the IMF and United States not led the effort to provide Mexico with $51 billion in credit lines. In the end, as Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin often points out, not only did Mexico pay back the United States ahead of schedule, but the United States made a profit of a half-billion dollars on the loan as well.

Whether the Asian rescues are successful, many critics say these sorts of mega-bailouts simply create longer-term problems, because they allow people who made foolish decisions — especially bankers and money managers in New York, London and Tokyo — to avoid being subject to the discipline of the market. Ensuring that a crippled country has the resources to continue paying its debts to foreigners may help keep a panic from spreading globally.

Frank Johnston/The Washington Post

Joel Klein, center, is the architect of the U.S. case against Microsoft.

An Avatar of Antitrust, A Nemesis for Microsoft

By Stephen Labaton
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — At work, Joel Klein uses Netscape Navigator to search the Internet. At home, he relies on Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

But the reason he uses different Web browsers, he says, is simply that the computers at his home and at his office were already loaded with them when they were bought.

That, in a nutshell, is the consumer practice that lies behind the most significant antitrust action to be brought by the government in a generation — a case of which Mr. Klein, 51, is the chief architect in his position as assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's antitrust division.

Two months ago, Mr. Klein filed a court challenge to Microsoft Corp.'s marketing strategy, which required all computer makers who wanted to install the software giant's Windows 95, the world's most popular operating system, to also install its Internet browser.

Last week, after winning a court order that forced the company to separate the two software programs, he escalated the fight when he asked a judge to hold Microsoft in contempt. He also asked the court to give him the unusual authority to review future Microsoft products to make sure that they are not attempts to corner new markets.

For some lawyers and antitrust specialists, Mr. Klein's decision was the biggest surprise since Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates, helped bail out his traditional nemesis, Apple Computer Co., in August.

A few months before the case, Mr. Klein's confirmation as assistant attorney general was unsuccessfully opposed by a handful of Senate Democrats who, along with some consumer groups, argued that he was strong on promoting big business and weak on enforcing antitrust law.

Conservative Republicans, on the other hand, endorsed his nomination. Both sides focused on the fact that as the acting head of the antitrust division, Mr. Klein had approved Bell Atlantic Corp.'s $23 billion acqui-

See MICROSOFT, Page 14

Japanese Investors Ignore Rescue Efforts

Nikkei Share Index Falls Below 15,000

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Ignoring a 5 trillion yen ($38.67 billion) government effort to resuscitate the economy, a 10 trillion yen plan to revive the flagging financial sector and the Bank of Japan's efforts to prop up the yen, investors sent the Nikkei stock index plummeting yet again on Monday.

The index fell below the 15,000 point level for the first time in more than two years, inciting rumors that the government would step in with a "price-keeping operation" that would provide a floor for the stock market.

"I am deeply concerned," Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said.

The Nikkei sank 515.49 points, or 3.37 percent, to close at 14,799.40, the equivalent of the Dow Jones industrial average falling 261.39 points from its close last Friday.

"Sentiment is deteriorating quite rapidly," said Andrew Shipley, an economist at Schroders Japan Ltd. "What was considered sufficient medicine two months ago is now not perceived as sufficient at all."

Since then, the Asian crisis has become more complex and thorny.

Japan is suffering the worst spate of bankruptcies in its postwar history, which has dire implications for its already weak banks.

Consumers are resolutely putting their yen in their futons, despite efforts to entice them to spend.

Hiroshi Okuda, president of Toyota Motor Corp., complained Monday that despite an aggressive and expensive advertising campaign, the company could not seem to draw buyers.

"I felt quite unhappy," Mr. Okuda said, when asked what he thought of the pessimism infecting the stock market.

Investors still seemed spooked by the failure of Toshoku Ltd., a large food commodities trader that went belly up last week. More than Toshoku's failure itself, which was the third-largest in postwar Japan, concerns about what more bankruptcies might mean for the already badly battered banking system spooked the market.

Sakura Bank Ltd., one of the weaker of Japan's 20 largest banks, was heavily exposed to Toshoku, and its shares, which plummeted last week, dropped an additional 13.9 percent to close at 360 yen apiece. Moody's Investors Service put the bank on credit watch last week for a possible downgrade.

Even the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi got bruised, its shares falling 4.4 percent despite reports that Goldman, Sachs & Co. plans to buy some 500 billion yen of bad real estate loans from the bank's affiliate, Nippon Trust Bank.

Goldman Sachs is known as a shrewd buyer of distressed property assets, and in any other market, news of its interest would have sent a strong signal of opportunity.

Inside: Goldman Sachs plunges into Japan's property market.

Also a senior member of the ruling party committee charged with stabilizing the financial system suggested that the government would use some of the 10 trillion yen it has pledged to shore up ailing banks to force consolidation in the bloated industry.

Okiharu Yasuoka, one of the leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party committee, described the stock market's fall below 15,000 as "a crisis."

That led to speculation that the government itself might step into the market in with what is known here as a price keeping operation, or PKO. The government reportedly engineered such an operation a few years ago when the Nikkei fell to 14,300.

A senior official at the Ministry of Finance refused to confirm that such a policy was ever put into effect before, although he went on to note that the government had been much criticized for it anyway.

■ Japanese Bad Debt on Rise

The Finance Ministry said Monday that failures of construction companies and money lenders had increased the total of bad debt held by Japanese institutions to 29.01 trillion yen, The Associated Press reported.

The increase in the outstanding balance of nonperforming loans by 1.11 trillion yen since the end of March includes 930 billion yen held by the failed Hokkaido Takushoku Bank, a ministry official said.

Thinking Ahead /Commentary

Globalization Needs to Be Better Run

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

BOSTON — Is the world entering an era that calls for radical changes in global economic management? Does the international economic and monetary system require a comprehensive redesign in the aftermath of the Cold War, as it did after World War II?

In Washington and other Western capitals, the consensus answer to those questions would almost certainly be no. There is broad satisfaction with the way in which the Western-oriented postwar economic and financial institutions have run the world economy.

In the United States, the conventional wisdom is that today's accelerating process of economic globalization will on balance be good for the vast majority of the world's inhabitants. While there will also be losers, according to this view, the system should be able to take care of them.

But in some other parts of the rest of the world, as well as in sectors of American and European opinion, there are growing fears that globalization, if not better managed, could lead to economic upheaval and conflict.

Those fears have been fueled by the Asian financial crisis, in which the International Monetary Fund has been widely criticized for enforcing traditional Western-style remedies, as well as by what seems to be a broader resentment in many countries of "hegemonistic" U.S. power.

The aim of the more intelligent critics is not to challenge free-market principles, now endorsed by virtually every nation on Earth. It is rather to ask whether the world's economic power structure, unchanged for half a century, will be able to cope with the forces unleashed by globalization.

That was the main question considered by a diverse group of economists from Europe, Asia and the Americas who met at Boston's Northeastern University last week under the auspices of the Gorbachev Foundation, an international policy organization headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader.

Unanimity is the last thing one would expect from any gathering of economists, and this group duly disagreed on many issues. While most insisted that globalization was increasing economic inequality both within and among nations, a vocal minority disagreed.

On some fundamental issues, however, the economists widely concurred. These were that globalization had now advanced further than at any time in history, that head-on resistance would be folly, that the process would not stop — short of a world war or an economic cataclysm — and that it was potentially beneficial.

Despite some mutterings that globalization was being exploited as a vehicle for Western neoimperialism, it was widely accepted, including by Mr. Gorbachev, that it had not been imposed on the rest of the world by the United States.

Nevertheless, the underlying theme of the discussion was that the dangers of globalization had been largely ignored by the "Washington consensus," composed of the U.S. government and institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank that dominate world economic policy-making.

Many of the economists were concerned by the risk of spreading financial instability, by the danger that a worldwide recession could provoke a protectionist backlash and by the growing power of multinational corporations.

It was widely felt that a loss of economic sovereignty by national governments had not been offset by greater cooperation at the international level. Participants from Russia, which excluded itself from the postwar system, argued especially strongly for new forms of economic power-sharing, if not world governance.

That kind of thinking is anathema to the United States. But one does not have to agree with all of this to conclude that it is not a good idea for globalization, and Western leadership, to be deeply resented by important sectors of world opinion.

The challenge is to find ways of responding to the dissident voices — and to make globalization itself more politically appealing.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

Dec. 22

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.fl.	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	2.0028	3.359	1.1269	0.3366	0.115*	—	5.4495*	1.386	1.5495*	1.3995	1.331*
Brussels	36.9305	60.975	20.636	6.1645	2.1034*	18.3115	—	25.5935	0.2812	25.55	24.38*
Frankfurt	1.7908	2.942	—	0.2987	0.102*	0.8874	4.8464*	1.2395	1.3691*	1.2418	1.1814*
London (a)	1.6635	—	2.9694	9.9114	2,904.06	3.3374	61.1337	2.391	214.807	2.3802	258.780
Madrid	150.53	251.25	84.64	25.296	8.633*	75.111	4.102	104.925	115.535*	105.189	—
Milan	1,765.65	2,948.80	980.75	293.11	—	870.50	47.84	1,214.65	13.248	1,278.35	11.596
New York (b)	—	1.6635a	1.7865	5.959	1,742.00	2.0067	36.34	1.439	130.125	1.4345	150.745
Paris	5.965	9.9365	3.3474	—	0.3414*	2.9795	0.1622	4.1496	4.5400*	4.16	3.9545*
Tokyo	129.50	206.38	72.73	21.74	0.740	65.54	3.5257	90.87	—	90.40	0.8696
Toronto	1.4346	2.3864	0.8057	0.2407	0.0821*	0.715	0.3905*	0.9978	1.1026*	—	0.952*
Zurich	1.4397	2.3915	0.8088	0.2416	0.0825*	0.7176	3.919*	—	1.1037*	1.0038	0.9554*
1 ECU	1.1085	0.666	1.9772	6.6183	1,938.50	2.228	40.7749	1.598	144.858	1.5989	167.359
1 SDR	1.3538	0.812	2.4239	8.0686	2,364.32	2.7155	49.5669	1.9408	175.599	1.9402	203.974

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, Paris and Zurich, fixings in other centers; New York at 4 P.M. and Toronto rates at 3 P.M.
a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9999	Greek drac.	280.72	Mex. peso	8.115	S. Afr. rand	4.86
Australian $	1.5330	Hong Kong $	7.7487	N. Zealand $	1.7286	S. Kor. won	1710.0
Austrian sch.	12.578	Hung. forint	200.97	Norw. krone	7.2916	Swed. krona	7.7725
Brazil real	1.1136	Indian rupee	39.16	Phil. peso	39.5	Taiwan $	32.60
Chinese yuan	8.31	Indo. rupiah	5100.0	Polish zloty	3.50	Thai baht	44.85
Czech koruna	34.06	Irish £	0.6891	Port. escudo	182.09	Turkish lira	200725.
Danish krone	6.7859	Israeli shek.	3.5371	Russ ruble	5945.0	UAE dirham	3.671
Egypt. pound	3.4025	Kuwaiti dinar	0.3044	Saudi riyal	3.75	Venez. boliv.	503.00
Fin. markka	5.3885	Malay. ring.	3.8105	Sing. $	1.6752		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6616	1.6593	1.6569	Japanese yen	129.57	128.87	128.30
Canadian dollar	1.4309	1.4299	1.4290	Swiss franc	1.4385	1.4380	1.4375
Deutsche mark	1.7777	1.7746	1.7718				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Cera Investment Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from the Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters.

Libid-Libor Rates

Dec. 22

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5⅝ - 5¾	3 9/16 - 3¾	1 5/16 - 1 7/16	7⅜ - 7½	3 7/16 - 3 9/16	⅞ - 1 1/16	4½ - 4⅝
3-month	5 13/16 - 5⅞	3 11/16 - 3 13/16	1 5/16 - 1 7/16	7 9/16 - 7 11/16	3 9/16 - 3 11/16	9/16 - 11/16	4 9/16 - 4 11/16
6-month	5 13/16 - 5 15/16	3 13/16 - 3¾	1 5/16 - 1 7/16	7 9/16 - 7¾	3⅝ - 3¾	¾ - ⅞	4⅜ - 4½
1-year	5⅞ - 5 15/16	3 13/16 - 3 15/16	1⅜ - 1½	7 9/16 - 7¾	3 13/16 - 4	9/16 - 11/16	4 9/16 - 4 11/16

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8½	8½
Federal funds	5½	5⅝
90-day CDs dealers	5.79	5.79
180-day CP dealers	5.58	5.58
3-month Treasury bill	5.29	5.24
1-year Treasury bill	5.25	5.20
2-year Treasury bill	5.68	5.64
5-year Treasury note	5.70	5.69
7-year Treasury note	5.70	5.70
10-year Treasury note	5.71	5.72
30-year Treasury bond	5.88	5.91
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	5.13	5.12
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.24	0.37
1-month interbank	1.05	1.03
3-month interbank	1.02	1.00
6-month interbank	1.01	1.00
10-year Gov't bond	1.92	1.92
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	3.30	3.38
1-month interbank	3.72	3.73
3-month interbank	3.72	3.74
6-month interbank	3.80	3.83
10-year Bond	5.24	5.25

Britain		
Bank base rate	7¼	7¼
Call money	7 9/16	7¼
1-month interbank	7 7/16	7 9/16
3-month interbank	7 9/16	7⅝
6-month interbank	7⅝	7 11/16
10-year Gilt	6.26	6.25
France		
Intervention rate	3.30	3.30
Call money	3¾	3¾
1-month interbank	3½	3½
3-month interbank	3¾	3 9/16
6-month interbank	3 13/16	3 13/16
10-year OAT	5.24	5.24

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	289.75	290.85	+2.60
London	290.45	290.45	+1.55
New York	291.00	292.70	+1.60

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (Feb.)

Source: Reuters.

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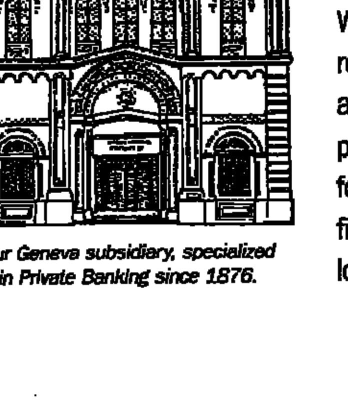

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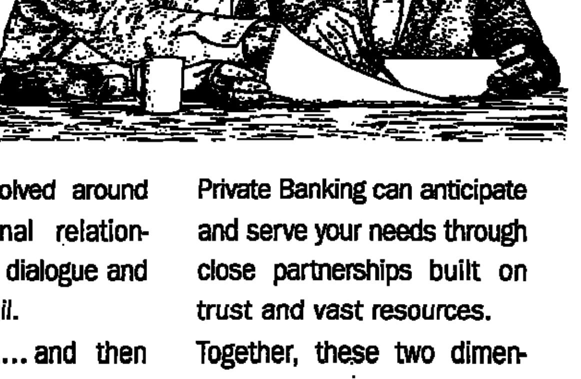

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BASLE TEL. 41 61/284 22 22 • ZURICH TEL. 41 1/217 86 86 • LUGANO TEL. 41 91/923 51 65
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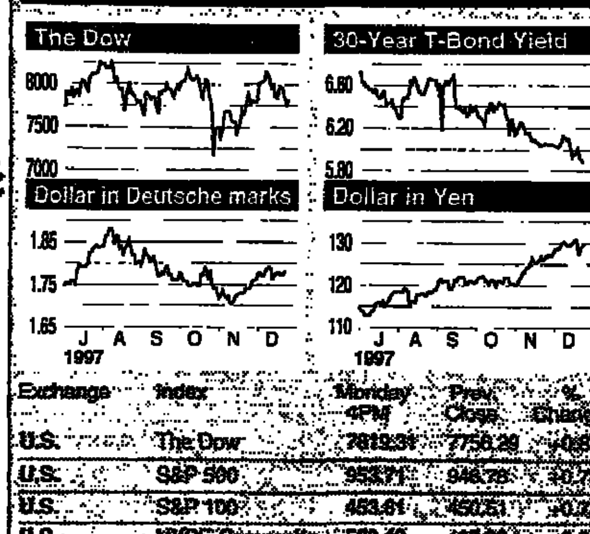
HONG KONG TEL. 852/28 02 28 88 • SINGAPORE TEL. 65/535 94 77

THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Exchange	Index	Monday 4PM	Prev. Close	% Change
U.S.	The Dow	7819.31	7756.29	+0.81
U.S.	S&P 500	953.71	946.78	+0.73
U.S.	S&P 100	453.81	450.53	+0.73
U.S.	NYSE Composite	500.48	497.89	+0.62
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1532.04	1524.74	+0.48
U.S.	AMEX Composite	663.07	660.68	+0.36
Toronto	TSE Index	6595.60	6535.30	+0.92
São Paulo	Bovespa	9494.45	9138.01	+3.89
Mexico City	Bolsa	4931.57	4946.43	-0.30
Buenos Aires	Merval	649.45	644.51	+0.61
Santiago	IPSA General	4660.39	4702.02	-0.89
Caracas	Capital General	8278.87	8348.74	-0.84

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• **American Electric Power Co.** agreed to buy **Central & South West Corp.** for $12.2 billion in stock and assumed debt.

• **Tyco International Ltd.** agreed to buy **American Home Products Corp.**'s Sherwood-Davis & Geck division for $1.77 billion, adding syringes, needles and catheters to its medical-products line.

• **Petroleos Mexicanos** plans to invest 11 billion pesos ($1.35 billion) in its petrochemical units in the next three years to expand production of natural-gas products.

• **Dynatech Corp.** said a group of its executives and key employees and the investment firm **Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Inc.** would acquire the telecommunications electronics company for $49 a share, or about $900 million.

• **Cabletron Systems Inc.**'s earnings fell 71 percent, to $19.9 million, or 13 cents a share, in its third quarter. Sales fell 8 percent, to $331.8 million, in the quarter ended Nov. 30.

• **Telecom Corp. of New Zealand** said **Ameritech Corp.** planned to sell its 24.95 percent stake in Telecom Corp. through a public share issue. *Bloomberg*

Weekend Box Office

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Titanic" dominated the U.S. box office over the weekend, with a gross of $27.6 million. Following are the Top 10 moneymakers, based on Saturday's ticket sales and estimates for Sunday.

1. Titanic	(Twentieth Century-Fox)	$27.6 million
2. Tomorrow Never Dies	(United Artists)	$26 million
3. Scream 2	(Dimension Films)	$14 million
4. MouseHunt	(DreamWorks Pictures)	$6.3 million
5. Flubber	(Walt Disney)	$4.1 million
6. For Richer or Poorer	(Universal)	$3.3 million
6. Amistad	(DreamWorks Pictures)	$3.3 million
8. Home Alone 3	(Twentieth Century-Fox)	$3.25 million
9. Anastasia	(Twentieth Century-Fox)	$1.7 million
10. John Grisham's The Rainmaker	(Paramount)	$1.4 million

Market Slides In Asia Give Dollar a Lift

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the yen Monday as tumbling Japanese stocks and downgrades in bonds from South Korea to Thailand drove global investors to U.S. financial assets.

The U.S. currency also gained against the Deutsche mark as price reports showed little sign of inflation in Germany, suggesting the Bundesbank will not raise interest rates soon.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The dollar rose to 130.125 yen in 4 P.M. trading from 129.280 yen on Friday and to 1.7815 Deutsche marks from 1.7754 DM.

The dollar also climbed to 1.4390 Swiss francs from 1.4350 francs and to 5.9590 French francs from 5.9485 francs. The pound fell to $1.6635 from $1.6705.

"The dollar climbed on negative news from Asia last night," said Dennis Heidt of Paribas. "Nothing's going on in New York. The vast majority of traders are finished for the year."

Moody's Investors Service Inc. cut the foreign-currency credit ratings of South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand to below investment grade, souring investors on the region and depressing the yen, traders said.

"People are looking to the U.S. bond market as a safe haven for year-end," said Rick Porter, manager of foreign exchange sales at Kredietbank. "That's benefiting the dollar in a flight to quality."

Activity was very light, traders said, with many market participants already on vacation for the Christmas holidays. Traders said the lingering economic, banking and currency crises in Japan and its Asian neighbors would hurt the yen in the coming months.

"The dollar is the place you want to be to round out your investment year without a bad surprise," said Walter Simon, a currency-options trader at Bank Julius Baer.

Traders also were encouraged to push the dollar higher by a lack of action on the part of Japanese officials to stem the dollar's gains.

Meanwhile, the Bundesbank reported that consumer prices in Western Germany rose at an annual rate of 1.9 percent in the six months to December, down from a rate of 2.1 percent for the six months ended in November. Given that, Mr. Simon said, the Bundesbank probably will keep rates stable.

Technology Issues Fuel Gains on Wall Street

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stock prices rose Monday, led by Intel and other computer-related shares that recently have lagged the market.

"Investors are moving into beaten-up stocks, particularly technology companies," said Tony Hitschler, president of Brandywine Asset Management.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 63.02 points higher at 7,819.31. The Nasdaq composite index rose 7.30 points to 1,532.04,

U.S. STOCKS

while the Standard & Poor's 500 Index gained 6.93 to 953.71.

Bond prices rose as deteriorating credit quality in Asia helped support demand for U.S. Treasury bonds as a safe investment.

"There's a flight to quality taking place," said Vic Thompson of State Street Global Advisors in Boston.

The benchmark 30-year bond rose 18/32 to 103 13/32, driving its yield down four basis points to 5.88 percent, the lowest since Oct. 20, 1993.

While U.S. stocks are vulnerable to a 10 percent to 20 percent decline, they remain something of a safe haven, traders said. Asian markets fell after Moody's Investors Service Inc. cut its investment ratings on South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand to junk-bond levels, intensifying concern that a regional cash crunch will drive companies into default.

"There's great unhappiness around the globe but not here," said Jim Benning, a trader at BT Brokerage in New York. "The U.S. economy is doing just fine."

Technology stocks, which have dragged down the market repeatedly in the past few weeks, posted some gains. Compaq Computer gained 1 to 54½, and International Business Machines rose 7/16 to 102 9/16.

Intel rose 1 7/16 to 71 7/16 and was the most active issue in U.S. markets. The company's chairman, Andrew Grove, was named Time magazine's Man of the Year. The magazine called the Hungarian immigrant "the person most responsible for the amazing growth in the power and innovative potential of microchips," the devices that power personal computers.

Stocks also were buffeted by several acquisition announcements.

American Bankers Insurance Group rose after American International Group said it was buying the specialty-insurance company for about $2.2 billion. American International Group stock rose.

Lukens jumped after Allegheny Teledyne offered to acquire the steelmaker for $715 million in cash and assumed debt, topping Bethlehem Steel's bid. Allegheny Teledyne rose, and Bethlehem Steel gained.

American Home Products fell after Tyco International said it would buy one of its subsidiaries and expand Tyco's existing medical-products line. Tyco rose.

Central & South West gained after American Electric Power said it would buy the company. American Electric fell.

Baltimore Gas & Electric and Potomac Electric canceled their $3.8 billion purchase agreement, saying regulators had asked for too much in rate cuts from them. Baltimore Gas gained, but Potomac Electric fell.

Merck rose after it received U.S. government clearance to sell the first pill for baldness, giving men a convenient alternative to Pharmacia & Upjohn's Rogaine ointment for keeping or regrowing hair. The clearance had been expected. *(Bloomberg, AP)*

Tough Sell: Dow Jones Markets Faces Loss

By Geraldine Fabrikant
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As potential buyers of Dow Jones Markets begin studying its internal financial data, they are finding an operation whose rising costs in the face of falling revenue could result in a $69 million operating loss this year, according to a confidential sales document that is circulating among bidders.

The same circumstances are likely to put the company at the risk of a significant loss in 1998 as well, according to the document.

At the troubled financial-information services unit of Dow Jones & Co., revenue has fallen nearly 9 percent, to $760 million from a high last year of $827.6 million, and costs are up about 17 percent in the current financial year.

The resulting loss that the company expects, according to the document, stands in stark contrast to the performance of the division in 1995, when it reported its highest operating income ever, $165.3 million.

By last year, operating income had dropped to $117.8 million.

The losses reflected in the document come at a time of intense competition in the financial-information industry. Companies such as Bloomberg LP and Reuters PLC have invested heavily in upgrading their software and services, which bring up-to-the-minute reports on the financial markets to brokers' and analysts' desks worldwide.

Several analysts and bankers have estimated that the unit might fetch $500 million to $750 million — less than its annual revenue — even though potential buyers in the financial-information business are said to feel they could cut expenses drastically.

For example, Dow Jones Markets now has about 90,000 terminals, and before a recent announcement of layoffs, it had about 3,800 employees. By contrast, ILX Systems, a unit of Thomson Corp., which is said to be interested in Dow Jones Markets, has 110,000 terminals and a staff of 670. Bridge Information Systems, another potential bidder, has 75,000 terminals and a staff of 1,600.

MICROSOFT: *Official Directs Escalating Antitrust Battle With Software Giant*

Continued from Page 13

sition of Nynex Corp., creating a telecommunications behemoth with 39 million telephone lines from Maine to Virginia.

"We've got an antitrust fellow here who rolls over and plays dead," Senator Ernest Hollings, Democrat of South Carolina, said at Mr. Klein's confirmation hearing.

Moreover, as the No. 2 official in the antitrust division a year earlier, Mr. Klein persuaded other Justice Department officials not to challenge Microsoft's strategy of installing the icon of its on-line service, the Microsoft Network, in all Windows 95 programs, an effort by the software colossus to promote its network over that of rivals such as America Online Inc.

Officials said Mr. Klein had argued that that market was already competitive and that the mere presence of a Microsoft Network icon on the computer screen would not by itself enable the company to leverage its dominance in the world of operating systems into control over networks and Internet access providers.

"There was a rumor some months ago that this guy was afraid of the big guys and wouldn't attack them," Stephen Axinn, an antitrust specialist in New York, said. "Nobody is saying that anymore. These are suddenly becoming the halcyon days for antitrust."

What makes the current antitrust fight particularly significant is that the World Wide Web is emerging as the next new platform for global commerce, research and entertainment. Not since the government took on the likes of AT&T Corp. and International Business Machines Corp. more than a generation ago has the antitrust division issued such a challenge to a corporate titan.

In fact, with the decision to prosecute Microsoft, Mr. Klein has put antitrust considerations back on the front pages and guaranteed that the division is involved in cutting-edge legal and economic issues in a way that his predecessor, Anne Bingaman, tried to accomplish but with less success.

"It was right, and it was courageous," Eleanor Fox, a professor of antitrust law at New York University, said. "He had to make a considered judgment about whether the worst problem is a monopoly or government intervention."

Microsoft executives and lawyers see the matter differently. They say Mr. Klein is trying to micromanage Microsoft and is a pawn in a larger struggle between the company and its rivals — one that they say should be sorted out by the marketplace.

In an article published in The Wall Street Journal last month, Mr. Gates argued that the antitrust division's position was "akin to the government telling personal-computer manufacturers that they can't include word-processing, spreadsheet or e-mail capability in PCs because it would be unfair to typewriter, calculator and courier companies."

Mr. Klein says his fundamental mission is to see that antitrust principles that were developed originally to regulate smokestack industries are correctly applied to emerging technologies to promote competition and innovation.

AMEX

Monday's 4 P.M. Close

The 300 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
AMC	228	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ARC	486	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ARM Fn p	155	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ARVLiv	487	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ASR Inv	499	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ATT Fd	132	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AdvPhot	648	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AeolsRE n	240	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AirWat	438	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alfin	172	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alphaln	750	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AltLiving	814	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AM 84	185	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AmerPag	1094	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AREInv	436	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ampal wt	7250	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Angeles	2594	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Antec	1180	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AndreaE s	579	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ApexSilv n	236	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Apogee	365	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AppleOrt n	180	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ArmorH	485	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Arbyth	148	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AsstLiv s	622	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AtlTele	153	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AudioBC n	135	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Audvox	1138	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Autotote	1474	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AvteqPd	145	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Azco	1287	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BAT Ind	595	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BFX Hosp	450	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BenLab s	227	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BeverlD n	1595	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BemaGold	4487	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BigCRad n	4092	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BioRCp	224	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bodie	238	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BogenC	164	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bogra wt	145	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BoltTech	205	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bowmr	161	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bowne	227	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BradDig	121	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CE Fran g	136	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CFX Cp	606	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cablvsn	1164	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CagleA	228	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Calton	263	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cambior	397	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cambrx	124	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CdnOccl g	1406	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CanyonRs	4271	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CelSci	463	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CFCda g	436	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ChadThr	438	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ChfAuth n	443	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chief	557	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ClvsC n	309	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CoastD	123	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cognitrn	179	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ColLb	1350	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ComEng s	136	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CominC g	214	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CmclAst	789	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CmdtAp	2467	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CmdtA wt	175	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CompTcb	317	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Computr n	144	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ContMatre	345	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CoreMatl	201	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CalfrV on	355	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cross	446	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ecCrwnCrL	546	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CrysItl bn	1312	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cycomm	1713	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DRS Tech	145	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DairyA	347	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DataMet	1982	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Delcomp	196	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DaytonMn	378	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DeslAmer	345	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DevnE	1088	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DigPwr	145	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Diodes	161	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EZ Serv	232	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EmbCo	148	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EchoBay	4004	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ElPasoE	1684	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ElecCom	192	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EmeriR	486	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EmpCor	430	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EngyRsh	148	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Envirotst	384	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EnzoBI	567	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FFP	163	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FallRiv n	203	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FonarTel	235	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FortiFin	186	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FstFedPs	247	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FlaRst	884	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FAusPr	8786	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FlaRck s	157	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ForstLb	531	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ForNatR	476	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FreqEl s	157	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GA Fncl	277	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GST Tel	1141	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GaylCo	1149	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gencor s	141	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GoAuto	139	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GaExpl s	220	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GetchGld	2897	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GiantFd	976	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GiantG	571	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GlbOcn	132	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Globlnk	469	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Govideo	896	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GldStarR	2124	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GMFld	1057	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GrnBayC	377	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GreyWolf	9934	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GreyAdvL	1822	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GrovePrp	256	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HdEP	213	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Halsey	251	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Halwd s	1659	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HangDr	508	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HanvDC wt	157	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HanvDir	2305	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harken	3227	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hasbro s	5097	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HewAir	252	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HlthCh	145	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Heam	3346	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HomSca	172	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HomeplVE	187	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HousePt s	779	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HuPnes s	125	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HuntCo	121	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HyenEn	127	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ICH Cp n	178	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Idealx	506	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ImpCMI s	1729	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ImpHly	1021	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ImpOil g	737	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
InfoTC	354	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
InfoTC wt	262	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IntelPty on	801	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
InterDig	2372	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intrmagn	317	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IntAdS n	158	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IntColmbt	141	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IRIS	244	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IonLaser	318	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IvaxCp	6155	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JTS Corp	26780	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JanBell	203	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jetronic	197	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KFX Inc	287	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KV Ph A	124	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Keane	4161	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KeyEng	3485	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KaprEq	826	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LXR Biot	794	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LaBarg	378	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LsrTech	287	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LazKap	430	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LilVera	277	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MC Shp	178	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MSR	135	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MagnHunt	378	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MasadCO0 n	711	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MegaGrp	143	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Maxxim	201	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MassSpd	196	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MedcR	228	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Media	335	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MediaLog	153	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Modtec	96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MLRsd94 n	1680	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MLE mt02 p	248	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Memtec	146	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Metromedia	2479	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MichAnt	275	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MovieStr	169	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MunWtg	242	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mumsf	212	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Myerslnd	218	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NTNCom	1824	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NVR	268	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nabors	9685	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NtPatnt	251	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Neoptrm	2753	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Netmed	177	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NA Vacc	1067	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nolar n	410	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NCAPl	179	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OOdep	190	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oncor	619	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Organogn s	2780	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oakand	236	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OzdTE n	172	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PC Oln n	1845	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PC Quote	1534	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PLC Sys	1924	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PacPharm	180	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PanAmCp	972	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PazeC	2273	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PegGld	5780	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PeopleTel	394	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PedlC	125	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PhxNet	3154	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phonetel	214	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PhxRsc	404	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Polymed	267	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PolyPh	578	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Polyvisn	142	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PremBs s	126	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PrpdLo	2443	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PropCT s	226	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PrpCp	432	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PhoeFtr p	125	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RF Pow	322	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ecRandar	120	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RegalBel	246	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RobertsPh	2899	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rogers	203	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RoyalO g	7016	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SabFd	439	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Schell s	160	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Securcm n	235	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SealyT n	278	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SheldPlan	295	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SpltTech	139	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SilverFdt	398	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SmithIn	278	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Softnet	318	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SpellInT	220	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SPDR	50426	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SP Mid	965	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
StevnB	129	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
StlwtrB	434	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
StrucCp n	381	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sulcus	480	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SunCity	168	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sunbar	256	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SunrSlg	165	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sunrmed	155	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SurvyC	156	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TDS Cp pf	142	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TelDta	523	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tenera	128	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TexBiotch	591	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThmoDt n	265	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Thermed	307	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThrmBio	372	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThrCardio	328	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThrmEco	517	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThermFib	128	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThmInst s	730	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThrmPw	318	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThmRe	173	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThrmSnc	267	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThmTk	281	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Thrmtrx	615	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TopSrce	1514	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TWA	6481	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Transmed	177	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TriniTech	134	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tubscp	1748	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TurnC	182	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UTI Eng s	1906	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unilab	1125	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unimar	392	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UnigNtl	138	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
USBiodf	1361	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
US Cell	1024	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UNR Tl	190	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ecVIS Hld	120	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ValleyRs	266	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VKAdM2	141	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Viacom	3883	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ViacB	6789	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Viac wtE	688	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VistaG g	2414	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VitgFd n	372	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WRIT	855	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WIRET	377	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Westown p	179	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wireless T	742	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEBAstla	186	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEBFrn	227	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEBGer	224	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEB HK	398	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEB Jpn	1160	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEB Mal	787	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEB Sing	181	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
XCL Ltd s	1560	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	7803.37	7844.72	7743.34	7819.31	+63.02
Trans	3149.56	3162.75	3140.53	3149.38	+4.14
Util	264.59	268.21	264.51	267.71	+2.96
Comp	2549.43	2561.30	2538.26	2557.16	+17.24

Standard & Poors

	High	Low	Previous Close	Today 4:00
Industrials	—	—	1092.55	1102.97
Transp.	—	—	671.39	673.06
Utilities	—	—	227.05	230.86
Finance	—	—	116.43	116.76
SP 500	—	—	946.78	953.71
SP 100	—	—	450.53	453.81

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	501.61	497.18	500.48	+3.00
Industrials	618.75	612.18	616.24	+3.91
Transp.	451.73	448.53	451.44	+2.28
Utility	331.20	326.60	331.08	+4.35
Finance	488.54	483.97	486.00	+1.03

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1544.37	1526.82	1532.03	+7.29
Industrials	1186.75	1179.28	1182.06	+6.67
Banks	2040.70	2027.54	2030.32	+1.19
Insurance	1766.00	1752.86	1759.62	+0.95
Finance	2439.61	2431.17	2436.67	+5.60
Transp.	1031.76	1019.67	1021.21	+1.48

AMEX

High	Low	Last	Chg.
663.64	660.47	663.07	+2.39

Dow Jones Bond

	Previous Close	Today Noon
20 Bonds	105.00	105.09
10 Utilities	102.02	102.60
10 Industrials	107.47	107.58

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
StratBcp n	81289	20½	19¼	19¾	—
Compaq s	75570	56⅛	54⅛	54½	+1
FstData	55994	26¼	25½	25¾	-⅛
AT&T	52508	63⅛	61¼	62⅛	+2⅛
Unisys	49763	14	13¼	13½	—
PhilMor s	47146	45	44	44⅝	+¾
MicrnT	41342	27⅞	25⅞	26¾	-1
Republnd	38792	21⅜	19	20⅜	-1⅝
IBM s	38246	104⅜	100⅞	102 9/16	+7/16
CocaCl	36695	66⅝	65⅝	66⅛	+⅛
EMC s	34883	26⅝	24⅛	26	+1⅝
GenElec s	34543	74¾	72⅜	73⅛	+⅝
Travelrs s	32465	53⅜	51⅜	52	-1
TexInst s	31465	46⅜	45⅜	46⅛	+⅛
Motorola	30677	59½	57¼	57⅝	-⅛

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Intel s	188003	73⅝	71	71 7/16	+1 7/16
Cisco s	103896	55⅝	52⅞	54½	+1¾
Oracle s	97236	22¼	21⅛	21⅜	—
DellCpt s	87267	82¾	79⅛	81⅝	+3½
VideoLan	74925	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—
XionDocu	74435	5⅛	3¼	3¾	[illegible]
Microsft	73442	130	125⅜	127⅜	-1½
ApldMat s	73413	31	29⅝	30¼	[illegible]
3Com	57077	36⅜	35	35⅜	[illegible]
Ascend	32978	27⅜	25⅛	25⅝	-1⅝
Danka	50413	17¾	17⅛	17¼	[illegible]
WorldCm	48443	33⅛	32	32¾	[illegible]
KLA Tenc	47875	40⅛	38⅞	39⅞	+2⅜
SunMic	46964	39⅝	39	39⅛	+1⅛
Xilinx	36811	38	34¾	35⅛	-⅛

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
SPDR	50426	95¾	94⅛	95½	+¾
JTS Corp	26780	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GreyWolf	9934	5⅛	5	5⅛	—
Nabors	9685	30⅛	28⅞	28⅞	[illegible]
FAusPr	8186	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ampal wt	7250	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RoyalO g	7016	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	+⅛
ViacB	6789	38⅛	37⅞	38⅛	+⅛
TWA	6481	10¼	10⅛	10⅛	+⅛
IvaxCp	6155	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1679	1007
Declined	1313	1996
Unchanged	486	458
Total issues	3478	3456
New Highs	198	116
New Lows	84	135

Nasdaq

	Noon	Prev.
Advanced	1876	1729
Declined	1829	2522
Unchanged	1833	1503
Total issues	5538	5754
New Highs	64	71
New Lows	133	276

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	272	208
Declined	342	359
Unchanged	157	175
Total issues	771	742
New Highs	16	14
New Lows	18	29

Market Sales

	Today 4:00	Prev. cons.
NYSE	534.85	903.95
Amex	27.94	46.00
Nasdaq	568.92	794.54

In millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
Cdn Resources g	-	.0557	12-31	1-15
Ocwen Asset Inv	-	.39	12-31	1-19
Pengrowth Engy g	-	.14	12-29	1-15
SL Green	-	.35	12-30	1-15
Summit REIT g	-	.13	12-31	1-15
Viking Energy g	-	.29	12-31	1-15
STOCK SPLIT				
Analysis & Tech 3 for 2 split.				
Fairfield Communties 2 for 1 split.				
STOCK				
North County Bcp	..	5%	12-31	1-31
REVERSE STOCK SPLIT				
Contl Health 1 for 3 reverse split.				
PMC Intl 1 for 4 reverse split.				
Thermwood Corp 1 for 5 reverse split.				
INCREASED				
Amer River Bk	S	.15	1-22	1-30
Andersons Inc	Q	.04	1-2	1-21
Belo,AH A	Q	.12	2-13	3-6
Gen Electric	Q	.30	12-31	1-26
Medallion Finl	Q	.27	12-31	1-9
Natl City Cleveland	Q	.46	1-9	2-1
Penwood Bncp	Q	.09	12-31	1-15
Permanent Bncp	Q	.11	1-9	1-23
Pulse Bncp	Q	.20	1-8	1-22
State St Corp	Q	.12	1-2	1-15
TCW/DW 2000	M	.055	12-31	1-23
Winton Fncl	Q	.125	12-31	1-14
SPECIAL				
CohenStr Totl Ret	-	1.88	12-31	1-14
Sirrom Capital	-	.35	12-31	1-12
INITIAL				
Annaly Mtg	-	.22	12-31	1-20
Apex Mtg	-	.04	12-31	1-9
Dedeigh Corp g	-	.25	2-16	2-28
Interstate Baker n	-	.07	1-15	2-2
Laser Mtg Mngm	-	.13	12-31	1-31
Leeds Fedl n	-	.14	1-7	1-21
Marcus Corp n	-	.055	1-26	2-16
Raytheon Co A&B	-	.01	12-29	1-26
Riverview Bncp	-	.03	12-31	1-9
Telecom Arg n	b	.52	12-26	1-6
Tower Rlty		.3536	12-31	1-15
YEAR-END				
China Fund	-	.50	12-29	1-15
Colonial IntermHI	-	.0645	12-31	1-9
France Grwth	-	1.50	12-31	1-16
Greater Chin	-	3.58	12-31	1-16
SPECIAL				
Sirrom Capital	-	.35	12-31	1-12
USBancorp Inc PA	-	.25	12-31	1-30

a-annual; b-approximate amount per share/ADR; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semiannually.

U.S. Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.
a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cc - PE exceeds 99.cld - called. d - new yearly low. dd - loss in the last 12 months. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - annual rate, reduced on last declaration. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. p - initial dividend, annual rate unknown. P/E - price-earnings ratio. q - closed-end mutual fund. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

Dec. 22, 1997

Grains

CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Mar 98	267½	263	263¾	-2¼	175,115
May 98	274¼	271	271¼	-2½	49,047
Jul 98	280½	276¼	276½	-3	57,853
Sep 98	278¼	276	276	-1¼	6,455
Dec 98	280½	278½	279½	-¾	32,815
Jul 99	292½	292	292½	-½	335
Dec 99	273	271½	273	unch.	669

Est. sales 48,000 Fri's sales 85,074
Fri's open int 325,085, up 2,124

SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Jan 98	207.70	205.20	206.60	+0.40	23,704
Mar 98	205.00	202.50	203.70	-0.30	34,981
May 98	204.00	202.10	203.10	-0.60	23,091
Jul 98	205.20	203.70	204.70	-0.40	16,117
Aug 98	205.30	204.20	205.00	unch.	4,979
Sep 98	205.50	204.00	205.00	+0.10	3,549

Est. sales 14,000 Fri's sales 29,753
Fri's open int 110,637, off 3,244

SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- cents per lb

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Jan 98	24.95	24.78	24.79	-0.22	25,773
Mar 98	25.60	25.15	25.20	-0.22	43,844
May 98	25.52	25.35	25.39	-0.21	15,624
Jul 98	25.60	25.45	25.45	-0.26	12,716
Aug 98	25.45	25.35	25.37	-0.23	3,518
Sep 98	25.40	25.20	25.25	-0.15	1,249

Est. sales 13,000 Fri's sales 23,188
Fri's open int 104,603, off 535

SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Jan 98	682½	675	680	-2	40,048
Mar 98	684½	679	681½	-2½	43,777
May 98	689¼	684¼	687	-2	25,747
Jul 98	694	688¾	690½	-3	25,879
Aug 98	691	687	688¾	-3¼	4,090

Est. sales 38,000 Fri's sales 59,340
Fri's open int 150,278, off 4,073

WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Mar 98	338	332	333	-¾	56,762
May 98	345½	339½	341	-½	12,420
Jul 98	351½	344½	347	-¼	19,488
Sep 98	354	354	354	+1	725

Est. sales 12,000 Fri's sales 20,061
Fri's open int 92,304, up 1,771

Livestock

CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Dec 97	67.05	66.70	66.75	+0.17	2,586
Feb 98	66.30	65.67	65.92	+0.17	48,427
Apr 98	69.30	68.55	68.67	-0.12	26,195
Jun 98	68.37	67.85	67.92	-0.42	15,687
Aug 98	69.57	68.80	68.90	-0.47	6,476
Oct 98	72.15	71.65	71.72	-0.32	1,782

Est. sales 13,734 Fri's sales 16,470
Fri's open int 101,464, up 950

FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Jan 98	77.32	76.37	76.65	-0.52	6,939
Mar 98	77.75	76.95	77.02	-0.40	4,650
Apr 98	78.00	77.30	77.40	-0.35	2,074
May 98	79.05	78.27	78.37	-0.57	1,604
Aug 98	80.75	80.10	80.25	-0.65	931
Sep 98	80.10	80.10	80.10	-0.65	200

Est. sales 2,553 Fri's sales 5,386
Fri's open int 16,631, up 517

HOGS-Lean (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Feb 98	59.30	58.92	59.05	-0.42	20,764
Apr 98	57.25	56.90	57.12	-0.42	8,246
Jun 98	65.25	65.05	65.20	-0.20	5,420
Jul 98	64.35	63.95	64.22	+0.10	1,543
Aug 98	61.90	61.70	61.72	-0.25	265

Est. sales 4,875 Fri's sales 6,146
Fri's open int 36,980, off 307

PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Feb 98	55.75	53.60	55.45	+0.72	6,104
Mar 98	54.90	53.50	54.60	+0.42	1,324
May 98	55.95	54.05	55.75	+0.40	1,025

Est. sales 2,011 Fri's sales 1,587
Fri's open int 9,186, up 69

Food

COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Mar 98	1656	1619	1620	-45	43,797
May 98	1686	1653	1654	-43	20,627
Jul 98	1712	1681	1681	-58	5,323
Sep 98	1735	1708	1708	-53	6,042
Dec 98	1762	1736	1736	-53	8,991
Mar 99	1781	1762	1762	-53	8,644

Est. sales 10,104 Fri's sales 13,547
Fri's open int 96,609, off 88

COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Mar 98	157.60	154.00	157.05	-1.40	16,947
May 98	153.25	150.25	153.25	-0.75	5,588
Jul 98	147.50	145.00	147.50	-1.00	2,828
Sep 98	151.50	139.50	141.50	-1.00	1,324
Dec 98	137.25	135.00	137.25	-0.75	1,217

Est. sales 6,869 Fri's sales 6,951
Fri's open int 28,189, off 819

SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Mar 98	12.30	12.23	12.24	-0.05	96,707
May 98	12.07	12.03	12.03	-0.02	33,825
Jul 98	11.66	11.62	11.62	-0.02	30,031
Oct 98	11.55	11.53	11.53	-0.01	26,428

Est. sales 7,116 Fri's sales 19,174
Fri's open int 196,664, off 1,580

ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Jan 98	86.20	85.00	85.10	-1.60	11,877
Mar 98	89.50	88.50	88.65	-1.60	22,355
May 98	93.00	92.00	92.00	-1.70	5,066
Jul 98	96.20	95.30	95.30	-1.60	3,667

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 9,421
Fri's open int 46,849, off 495

Metals

GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Dec 97	291.80	291.00	291.10	+1.60	175
Jan 98			291.60	+1.60	2
Feb 98	293.70	291.00	292.70	+1.60	98,132
Apr 98	295.50	292.30	294.50	+1.70	12,453
Jun 98	297.30	295.80	296.50	+1.70	11,938
Aug 98	299.20	298.30	298.50	+1.70	5,372
Oct 98	321.30	300.50	300.50	+1.70	2,446
Dec 98	303.30	302.20	302.60	+1.70	13,546
Feb 99	305.30	304.70	304.70	+1.70	3,928

Est. sales 13,000 Fri's sales 22,840
Fri's open int 185,460, up 1,907

HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Dec 97	79.80	79.35	79.40	-0.10	1,185
Jan 98	80.00	79.65	79.70	-0.20	3,510
Feb 98	80.40	80.25	80.30	-0.15	2,098
Mar 98	81.25	80.65	80.85	-0.15	34,964
Apr 98	81.40	81.30	81.40	-0.10	1,510
May 98	82.10	81.70	81.75	-0.20	5,065
Jun 98			82.05	-0.20	1,417
Jul 98	82.80	82.55	82.55	-0.25	3,717
Aug 98	82.95	82.85	82.85	-0.25	1,237

Est. sales 6,000 Fri's sales 6,146
Fri's open int 69,120, up 462

SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Dec 97	603.00	596.00	597.50	-3.50	397
Jan 98	602.50	600.30	600.30	-3.00	28
Feb 98			602.30	-3.00	
Mar 98	608.00	601.50	602.50	-3.00	67,014
May 98	607.00	601.50	602.50	-3.00	7,103
Jul 98	607.00	600.00	602.50	-3.00	7,371
Sep 98			602.50	-3.00	1,512
Dec 98	606.00	599.00	601.00	-3.20	6,902

Est. sales 8,000 Fri's sales 10,244
Fri's open int 95,954, up 981

PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	OpInt
Jan 98	356.00	352.70	353.10	-1.90	7,267
Apr 98	354.00	350.10	350.10	-3.10	4,610
Jul 98	352.00	348.60	348.60	-3.40	293
Oct 98			348.60	-3.40	4

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 2,041
Fri's open int 14,218, up 227

LONDON METALS (LME) Dollars per metric ton

	Close		Previous	
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1506.00	1507.00	1514.00	1515.00
Forward	1534.00	1535.00	1540.00	1541.00
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	1752.00	1753.00	1746.00	1747.00
Forward	1781.00	1782.00	1776.00	1777.00
Lead				
Spot	530.00	532.00	542½	543½
Forward	539.00	541.00	552.00	553.00
Nickel				
Spot	5905.00	5915.00	5875.00	5885.00
Forward	6000.00	6010.00	5970.00	5975.00
Tin				
Spot	5335.00	5345.00	5350.00	5360.00
Forward	5320.00	5325.00	5305.00	5310.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1087½	1088½	1119.00	1120.00
Forward	1113.00	1115.00	1142.00	1143.00

Financial

US T BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	94.97	94.89	94.92	-0.07	8,237
Jun 98	94.96	94.90	94.90	-0.09	1,270
Sep 98	94.90	94.90	94.90	-0.08	29
Dec 98			95.02	unch.	

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 2,234
Fri's open int 9,536, up 961

5 YR TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 64ths of 100 pct

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Dec 98	108-45	108-45	108-45	unch.	

Est. sales 16,407 Fri's sales 45,065
Fri's open int 252,073, off 8,269

10 YR TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	112-16	112-09	112-13	-01	362,761
Jun 98	112-14	112-12	112-12	-01	2,090

Est. sales 322,799 Fri's sales 83,267
Fri's open int 367,211, up 2,674

US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	121-09	120-19	120-29	+04	701,173
Jun 98	120-20	120-13	120-19	+04	28,326
Sep 98			120-11	+05	5,098

Est. sales 1,094,844 Fri's sales 495,991
Fri's open int 765,144, off 11,414

LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Dec 97	121-07	121-05	121-06	—0-04	8,368
Mar 98	121-27	121-15	121-16	—0-05	179,825
Jun 98	N.T.	N.T.	105-26	—0-05	1,098

Est. sales: 48,961. Prev. sales: 90,099
Prev. open int.: 241,910 up 5,027

GERMAN GOV. BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	105.16	104.86	104.90	—0.10	240,766
Jun 98	N.T.	N.T.	104.31	—0.10	1,144

Est. sales: 48,961. Prev. sales: 90,099
Prev. open int.: 241,910 up 5,027

10-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF) FF500,000 - pts of 100 pct

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	101.76	101.50	101.56	Unch.	139,021
Jun 98	101.06	101.06	100.96	Unch.	125

Est. sales: 38,129.
Open int.: 139,146 up 1,951.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	116.40	116.17	116.23	+0.06	117,436
Jun 98	N.T.	N.T.	115.63	+0.06	73

Est. sales: 48,981. Prev. sales: 90,099
Prev. open int.: 241,910 up 5,027

LIBOR 1-MONTH (CMER) $3 million- pts of 100 pct.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Jan 98	94.30	94.28	94.29	-0.01	21,221
Feb 98	94.29	94.28	94.28	unch.	12,925
Mar 98	94.24	94.22	94.23	-0.01	2,887

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 7,139
Fri's open int 39,059, off 1,447

EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Feb 98	94.21	94.20	94.20	-0.01	6,173
Mar 98	94.22	94.18	94.19	-0.01	489,007
Jun 98	94.21	94.17	94.18	-0.01	394,440
Sep 98	94.19	94.13	94.15	-0.02	258,496
Dec 98	94.10	94.05	94.07	-0.02	222,380
Mar 99	94.11	94.06	94.07	-0.02	164,239
Jun 99	94.06	94.03	94.04	-0.02	137,943
Sep 99	94.04	94.00	94.01	-0.02	100,498
Dec 99	93.98	93.93	93.96	-0.02	103,497
Mar 00	94.00	93.97	93.98	-0.02	73,652
Jun 00	93.98	93.95	93.96	-0.02	62,712
Sep 00	93.96	93.93	93.94	-0.02	54,266

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 374,334
Fri's open int 2,494,469, up 19,042

BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	1.6640	1.6526	1.6560	-0.0074	32,864
Jun 98	1.6500	1.6498	1.6490	-0.0074	1,318
Sep 98			1.6420	-0.0074	4

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 9,908
Fri's open int 34,186, up 2,737

CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	.7000	.6980	.6987	-0.0013	56,012
Jun 98	.7004	.6991	.6998	-0.0013	3,385
Sep 98	.7011	.7007	.7006	-0.0013	897

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 16,299
Fri's open int 60,824, up 428

GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	.5656	.5628	.5643	-0.0022	65,546
Jun 98	.5667	.5665	.5671	-0.0022	4,399
Sep 98			.5696	-0.0022	140

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 16,146
Fri's open int 70,088, up 152

JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	.7842	.7738	.7780	-0.0054	88,398
Jun 98	.7888	.7855	.7888	-0.0054	1,665
Sep 98			.7995	-0.0054	1,372

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 18,918
Fri's open int 91,440, off 23

SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	.7039	.7006	.7026	-0.0020	37,375
Jun 98	.7096	.7090	.7096	-0.0020	1,441
Sep 98			.7165	-0.0020	110

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 15,226
Fri's open int 38,931, up 98

MEXICAN PESO (CMER) 500,000 pesos, $ per peso

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	.11940	.11890	.11937	+.00333	16,474
Jun 98	.11550	.11525	.11530	+.00319	3,267
Sep 98	.11215	.11205	.11205	+.00319	4,806

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 6,127
Fri's open int 25,068, off 631

3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	92.47	92.42	92.43	—0.01	140,914
Jun 98	92.57	92.51	92.53	—0.02	108,358
Sep 98	92.73	92.66	92.68	—0.03	82,563
Dec 98	92.92	92.85	92.88	—0.03	76,962
Mar 99	93.14	93.06	93.08	—0.04	65,748
Jun 99	93.32	93.25	93.27	—0.03	62,245
Sep 99	93.43	93.37	93.39	—0.03	43,353

Est. sales: 42,665. Prev. sales: 57,894
Prev. open int.: 688,067 up 266

3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Jan 98	96.35	96.32	96.33	—0.01	16,989
Feb 98	N.T.	N.T.	96.30	—0.01	750
Mar 98	96.27	96.22	96.23	—0.03	381,004
Jun 98	96.18	96.09	96.11	—0.02	334,222
Sep 98	96.07	95.98	95.99	—0.01	247,981
Dec 98	95.85	95.78	95.79	Unch.	204,511
Mar 99	95.67	95.59	95.61	+0.02	238,579
Jun 99	95.48	95.41	95.43	+0.02	114,026
Sep 99	95.33	95.26	95.28	+0.02	87,825

Est. sales: 177,279. Prev. sales: 176,020
Prev. open int.: 1,801,407 off 3,265

3-MONTH PIBOR (MATIF) FF5 million - pts of 100 pct

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	96.29	96.23	96.25	Unch.	85,334
Jun 98	96.17	96.11	96.14	+ 0.04	41,241
Sep 98	96.04	95.99	96.02	+ 0.07	29,751
Dec 98	95.88	95.77	95.83	+ 0.06	24,620
Mar 99	95.70	95.62	95.64	+ 0.06	41,334

Est. sales: 38,925.
Open int.: 264,416 up 3,771.

3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	94.81	94.73	94.73	—0.04	152,761
Jun 98	95.43	95.36	95.38	Unch.	128,930
Sep 98	95.65	95.60	95.61	+0.01	91,148
Dec 98	95.66	95.58	95.58	—0.01	61,866
Mar 99	95.54	95.47	95.47	+0.03	89,565

Est. sales: 48,712. Prev. sales: 39,314
Prev. open int.: 552,194 up 2,514

Industrials

COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	68.00	67.45	67.88	+0.58	43,137
May 98	69.25	68.75	69.15	+0.47	15,097
Jul 98	70.50	70.00	70.30	+0.49	14,919
Oct 98	72.10	72.10	72.10	+0.30	1,371
Dec 98	72.79	72.50	72.66	+0.15	13,097

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 8,417
Fri's open int 88,421, up 83

HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Jan 98	51.95	51.00	51.15	-0.81	32,157
Feb 98	52.35	51.40	51.51	-0.86	43,466
Mar 98	52.55	51.50	51.71	-0.86	19,397
Apr 98	52.05	51.46	51.46	-0.76	10,777
May 98	51.75	51.06	51.06	-0.71	8,441
Jun 98	51.60	50.91	50.91	-0.66	11,005
Jul 98	51.90	51.16	51.16	-0.56	4,483

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 26,361
Fri's open int 147,472, off 1,434

LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Feb 98	18.59	18.30	18.32	-0.22	128,584
Mar 98	18.72	18.45	18.49	-0.23	46,516
Apr 98	18.86	18.62	18.64	-0.22	28,263
May 98	19.03	18.75	18.79	-0.20	21,447
Jun 98	19.10	18.83	18.89	-0.18	34,599
Jul 98	19.12	18.94	18.94	-0.18	17,553

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 125,047
Fri's open int 427,713, up 1,871

NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Jan 98	2.460	2.360	2.360	-0.111	37,694
Feb 98	2.410	2.300	2.295	-0.126	38,325
Mar 98	2.350	2.250	2.250	-0.094	24,392
Apr 98	2.250	2.180	2.185	-0.070	12,426
May 98	2.200	2.160	2.170	-0.050	9,103
Jun 98	2.205	2.140	2.140	-0.072	9,013

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 42,427
Fri's open int 217,315, up 2,195

UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Jan 98	56.60	55.40	55.70	-0.69	19,272
Feb 98	56.90	55.90	56.04	-0.76	31,485
Mar 98	57.25	56.20	56.44	-0.83	12,490
Apr 98	59.65	58.79	58.79	-0.78	12,926
May 98	59.50	58.50	58.54	-0.78	10,098
Jun 98	58.60	57.94	57.94	-0.78	8,111
Jul 98	58.20	57.24	57.24	-0.78	6,734
Aug 98	57.35	56.34	56.34	-0.78	3,353

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 32,602
Fri's open int 109,182, off 450

GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Jan 98	159.50	158.50	158.75	+1.75	27,153
Feb 98	160.50	159.00	159.50	+2.00	13,336
Mar 98	160.75	160.00	160.25	+1.75	11,908
Apr 98	160.75	160.50	160.50	+1.25	4,831
May 98	160.50	160.50	160.50	+1.75	3,392
Jun 98	160.50	160.25	160.50	+1.75	11,451

Est. sales: 14,000. Prev. sales: 8,888
Prev. open int.: 88,038 up 566

BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Feb 98	17.49	17.28	17.28	—0.25	79,670
Mar 98	17.57	17.38	17.38	—0.28	39,067
Apr 98	17.61	17.50	17.46	—0.22	17,438
May 98	17.67	17.58	17.53	—0.20	11,909
Jun 98	17.73	17.62	17.59	—0.18	18,697
Jul 98	17.75	17.72	17.64	—0.17	6,218

Est. sales: 15,000. Prev. sales: 37,881
Prev. open int.: 188,787 up 5,339

Stock Indexes

SP COMP INDEX (CMER) 250 x index

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Mar 98	960.00	948.00	964.70	+7.20	357,335
Jun 98	977.50	966.00	975.00	+7.50	8,372
Sep 98			977.00	unch.	2,477

Est. sales N.A. Fri's sales 135,141
Fri's open int 470,542, up 1,878

FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Dec 98	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	14,118
Mar 98	5105.0	5030.0	5055.0	+17.0	56,990

Est. sales: 4,365. Prev. sales: 16,784
Prev. open int.: 73,108 up 1,711

CAC 40 (MATIF) FF200 per index point

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
Dec 97	2889.0	2823.0	2875.0	+44.0	28,484
Jan 98	2891.0	2830.0	2881.5	+44.0	22,489
Mar 98	2903.5	2851.0	2897.0	+43.0	15,335

Est. sales: 23,620.
Open int.: 86,937 up 1,126.

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	1,458.20	1,446.80
Reuters	1,749.20	1,760.20
D.J. Futures	141.83	141.94
CRB	231.37	233.30

Sources: Matif, Associated Press, London Int'l Financial Futures Exchange, Int'l Petroleum Exchange.

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hüls: Making the Market-Sized Company

New Corporate Structure Gives Subsidiaries A Mandate: Be Number One in Your Market

One of the company's greatest assets is its willingness to try new ways of working. Ideas for change are solicited and rewarded.

In transforming itself, this large German chemicals company has provided the business world with a role model. Hüls's new corporate structure will be able to cope with and profit from volatile markets and ever-changing technologies.

Nearly all of the world's major companies have cut costs and stepped up productivity by putting themselves through the re-engineering process. Designed to increase the company's innate ability to compete successfully, re-engineering has generally entailed flattening hierarchies and empowering employees. Often, spinning off one or more corporate divisions has been part of the plan.

Extensive though these re-engineerings have been, many of the restructured companies are now looking for further ways to boost corporate performance. The reason: the impetuses for restructuring have not gone away. In fact, they've gotten stronger.

One solution is provided by Hüls AG. In a move taking effect on Jan. 1, 1998, the company has parceled out its operations to an array of 12 subsidiaries. Each of these has been given virtually complete day-to-day responsibility for serving and developing its individual area of focus within the world's chemical market.

All of these manufacturers and service providers face the same iron-clad rule: sink or swim. The corollary for Hüls's "make it on your own" policy is that there is nothing eternal about this line-up. Rather, the new structure is flexible and will be determined by the success of the individual companies in attaining and maintaining a number-one position in their markets. This position is defined as having the largest market share, or highest rate of profitability, or productivity per employee. Also shaping the subsidiaries will be the new opportunities presenting themselves in the world's chemical sector.

As part of the company's ongoing Global Fitness Program, these stipulations have already led Hüls to make a number of asset divestitures and acquisitions in the recent past. Even larger ones are to come in the near future.

Nor is the prevailing form of corporate structure — holding company and subsidiary — engraved in stone. Over the past few years, Hüls has shown a great proclivity for deploying the joint venture as a way of reducing exposure in troubled markets and for entering into new geographic and product areas.

Kudos

Germany's business press has been quick to laud Hüls's restructuring. The articles have praised Hüls as a forerunner for the country's entire business community, which is in pressing need of achieving a greater flexibility of operations.

The current situation is a far cry from the troubled years of 1992 and 1993. Like many industries worldwide, Germany's chemical industry had been struck by a deep slump in demand. All of the country's manufacturers were confronted with a make-or-break situation. In those days, Hüls was not by any means considered a sure-fire survivor. Many of the company's products were situated in the low-growth sectors of the market. Its distribution network was underdeveloped in many high-growth markets. Even more crippling, its operating structures were regarded as hidebound.

The company did have two major assets. The Veba group was steadfast in its commitment to remaining a major producer of chemicals. In a series of major acquisitions, it was this commitment that made Hüls — whose modern-day life started in 1978 — into Germany's sixth-largest manufacturer of chemicals.

And in 1993, a new, vigorous management team "took office." It was determined to work the turnaround, and that's precisely what it did. From 1992 to 1994, Hüls recorded a loss of 1.5 billion DM ($850.19 million), partially resulting from charges taken on restructuring measures. These comprised selling off loss-making and/or peripheral activities and augmenting the remaining core operations through the purchasing of new holdings.

Keeping staff on board

In terms of the company's total turnover, the sell-offs and acquisitions balanced each other out, keeping Hüls's total above the 11 DM billion mark. The moves were also partly responsible for the major improvement in profitability. Earnings before taxes on income reached the 700 DM million plus mark in 1995, and showed a further improvement in 1996.

The achievement becomes even more remarkable considering the environment in which it was accomplished. Owing to the entry into the world market of chemical producers from Central and Eastern Europe and other emerging areas, both product prices and margins suffered a further fall in these years.

Even more important in producing Hüls's profitability turnaround was the surge in productivity. Reversing a sharp decline, the average output of employees working in the core, chemical manufacturing operations rose 47 percent within a single two-year period, with the group-wide figures showing comparable increases.

How was this achieved?

"Through the extensive use of benchmarking and of employee retraining programs, and not by resorting to mass lay-offs," says Erhard Meyer-Galow, chairman of Hüls's board of management.

Speed, not size

The questions arise, with re-engineering successfully completed: Why this sweeping reorganization of the company? And where did this entirely innovative corporate form come from?

"Because the need to transform was still there, as declines in profitability in several business areas detailed. And because it's a fallacy to suppose that any restructuring can ever be brought to an ultimate conclusion in today's tumultuous world," says Mr. Meyer-Galow. "And the idea of creating operating units empowered to focus exclusively on their area of expertise was not new, at least not to us. We already had five subsidiaries basically doing just that, and they were among the most successful in our group."

According to Mr. Meyer-Galow, because the five are relatively small, their speed of decision-making, product development, marketing and order-processing are very high.

"And that's the key point," he says. "We don't necessarily want our companies to be the largest in the field. But we very definitely expect them to be the fastest ones. Speed of action, not size of operation, is the key determinant of success in today's business world."

Environmental Leader Courts Consultants

In order to practice sustainable development, Hüls has established and maintained some of the world's most extensive systems of environmental protection. This principle also has managerial and technological dimensions.

Germany's chemicals industry is more than halfway to its goal of slashing its carbon-dioxide output by 30 percent by the year 2005. With a reduction of more than 20 percent already achieved, the industry is right on schedule. (The program began in 1990.)

The reduction of air pollution emissions has been part of Hüls's across-the-board environmental policy. All of Hüls's six production facilities in Germany have completed the strict European Union environmental audit process, making the company the first large-scale manufacturer in Europe to do so.

Erhard Meyer-Galow, chairman of Hüls's board of management, sees the sustainable development principle at work in all of the group's areas of activity.

"We've also set up mechanisms sustaining the development of our companies and their products and staff members," he says.

One way that this has been accomplished was by establishing a "brain trust" of 12 bright young people each year to discover promising areas of product development for Hüls. The only requirement for the group was that its members be entirely new.

After looking at an initial 200 areas, the brain trust selected 10 for submission to a screening committee. Four projects were selected for development, something now being undertaken by Creavis, one of the group's "hotshops."

"Such groups have been designed to serve as 'agents of change' within the Hüls group," says Klaus Engel, executive vice-president of Creanova, another of Hüls' "innovation engines."

Fresh critique

Hüls's in-house management consultants also play a major role in sustaining the process of corporate change. Working on a contract basis, the 65 consultants are commissioned by group companies and divisions to solve fundamental problems, including the re-engineering of their basic way of operating. A number of the 65 are themselves bright new arrivals to the Hüls group.

"Their stint at the in-house management consultancy provides them with a thorough exposure to the group's many areas of activities," says Wolfgang Werner, the management consultancy's head. "In turn, the young people bring a freshness of outlook to our projects."

Senior executives experience this freshness head-on. So-called "forums" are a key part of Hüls's management development program. In these, groups of 25 to 30 young executives have the opportunity to interact directly with Messrs. Meyer-Galow, Engel and Werner.

"Instead of telling them what they should be doing, I invite them to critique my performance," says Mr. Meyer-Galow. "They do so, in forthright and interesting comments. Perhaps it's this openness that has made Hüls one of Germany's most attractive employers," he concludes.

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In Chairman's Vision, Employees Are Capital

Erhard Meyer-Galow, who has a doctorate in chemistry, began his distinguished career in 1969, in Germany's chemistry industry. In 1991, he was appointed member of the board of management of Stinnes AG, the Veba Group's services and retailing arm. Since 1993, he has been chairman of the board of management of Hüls and a member of Veba's board of directors.

Hüls's nearly 29,000 employees have been subjected to top-to-bottom changes in their working environments over the past five years, and further, major changes are in store over the next few weeks. How has Hüls's management enlisted support for these changes?

The question puts the cart before the horse. The process worked like this: First we won the employees' hearts and minds, and then, availing ourselves of their support and especially their ideas, we commenced the restructuring. One way we secured both was by greatly stepping up the suggestion-making process. We award cash prizes to all employees making suggestions and, even more important, we implement their suggestions.

But this is by no means only or primarily about financial reward. We want our employees to get the message that their innovations and enthusiasm are appreciated. That's why I personally hand out all cash awards leading to savings or other improvements of more than 10,000 DM ($5,668). And that's why we've had more suggestions over the past two years than in the preceding 50.

Jealousy has caused similar programs at other companies to fail. Superiors didn't want their subordinates getting "too full of themselves." How have you gotten around that?

Very simply. By ranking our executives according to the number and "output" of suggestions submitted by their personnel — and by allowing the executives to participate in their staff members' ingenuity via weekend trips to Paris and other attractive destinations. The result of all this has been that Hüls's suggestion-making process nabbed first place among all of Germany's chemical manufacturers, and second place among all of the country's companies with between 5,001 and 20,000 employees [1996 Bundeswirtschaft Engineurprufung survey]. In 1996, we provided our employees with 11.7 DM million in prizes. These resulted in 100 DM million in savings. The figures for 1997 should be about 50 percent higher.

Hüls currently realizes more than two-thirds of its sales revenues in Europe. Of that, half stems from Germany. You've set your sights on reducing Europe's share to 50 percent and to greatly increasing the revenues earned in North America and Asia. Won't the setting up of the 12 independent subsidiaries impede that, by splitting up sales activities?

Not in the slightest. There are a number of high volume markets, principally in Europe, that can be directly and cost-efficiently served by our major subsidiaries, acting in their own right and for other group companies. In Asia, the object of some 2 billion DM of Hüls investment over the next four years, we've set up a holding company in Singapore and charged it with further building up a distribution and production network in Asia. We're also extended our working relationships with third-party distributors in a number of markets. We foresee our subsidiaries' making use of the Asian holding company's services, as these will be effective and expert — partly because the staff members will be Hüls's "insiders."

But the question of the geographic dispersion of a distribution network is becoming more and more moot in an era in which a Chinese purchaser of chemicals solicits bids on a worldwide scale via an e-mail broadcast throughout the Internet. This dissemination of on-line business is stoking worldwide competitive pressures. And the winners are those able to offer good quality at the very lowest price. Large-scale distribution networks cause overhead and hence higher prices.

Today, a purchaser of chemicals can solicit bids on a worldwide scale via an e-mail broadcast throughout the Internet

Extensive though it has been, your process of restructuring appears to be only a prelude for an even bigger move. Veba, your corporate parent, has purchased a 36.4 percent stake in Degussa, the fifth-largest chemical company in Germany.

Veba's move has been made with the avowed goal of joining Degussa and Hüls into the "top four" chemical producers. What is the status of this move, and what effect will it have on your company's efforts?

Degussa's board of directors have welcomed this move. Talks on ways to mesh the two companies' operations are proceeding, and we expect to begin detailed discussions after Degussa's annual general meeting, to be held on Feb. 13, 1998. The merger makes good business sense. The companies' range of activities are complementary, thus avoiding overlap. A merger will thus produce a full-product, full-service provider of chemicals.

The New Corporate Offspring

As of Jan. 1, 1998, the Hüls Group will be comprised of an eponymous "strategic chemicals holding company" and 12 subsidiaries, each responsible for serving a clearly delineated segment of the world's chemical market:

MEMC Electronic Materials, Inc.
Products: silicium wafers, polycrystalline silicium
Workforce size: 7,500 Turnover: 1.7 billion DM ($963.55 million)

Phenolchemie GmbH & Co., KG
Products: phenol and aceton
Workforce size: 580 Turnover: 1 billion DM

Roehm GmbH
Products: semi-finished materials and formants for Plexiglas, methacrylates
Workforce size: 3,700 Turnover: 1.2 billion DM

Stockhausen GmbH & Co., KG
Products: superabsorbents, flocculants
Workforce size: 1,600 Turnover: 1 billion DM

VESTOLIT GmbH
Products: PVCs
Workforce size: 770 Turnover: 600 million DM

CONTENSIO CHEMICALS GmbH
Products: tensides, selected performance-enhancing chemicals
Workforce size: 1,000 Turnover: 800 million DM

CREANOVA Spezialchemie GmbH
Products: intermediates, colorants, coating raw materials and engineering plastics
Workforce size: 4,000 Turnover: 2.7 billion DM

OXENO Olefinchemie GmbH
Products: C4 products, oxoalcohols, softeners and plasticizers
Workforce size: 900 Turnover: 1.2 billion DM

SIVENTO Chemie GmbH
Products: silanes and silicones
Workforce size: 1,400 Turnover: 450 million DM

Styrenix Kunstoffe GmbH & Co. KG
Products: styrols
Workforce size: 500 Turnover: 550 million DM

Hüls Infracor GmbH
Services: infrastructure maintenance and development, environmental protection, energy supply, logistics, management of the ChemSite industrial park in Marl, Germany
Workforce size: 4,000 Turnover: 1.2 billion DM

CREAVIS Gesellschaft für Technologie und Innovation mbH
Activities: research into and development of innovative products — including enzymes and catalysts — and services, the entry into new business areas
Workforce size: 130 Turnover: not yet available

Personnel and turnover figures have been rounded off.

"Hüls: Making the Market-Sized Company"
was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune. It was sponsored by Hüls.
Writer: *Terry Swartzberg, based in Munich.*
Program Director: *Bill Mahder.*

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December 22, 1997

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ASIA/PACIFIC

1994: An Early Warning on Asia, but No One to Hear It

By Jeff Gerth and Richard W. Stevenson
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Three years ago, when Thailand and South Korea were still considered economic miracles and no one but currency traders paid attention to the baht and the won, the top U.S. banking regulator saw a looming crisis in Asia.

Eugene Ludwig, the comptroller of the currency, noticed disturbing parallels between banking practices in rapidly growing Asian economies and the mess created in the United States by the deregulation and subsequent collapse of savings-and-loan associations.

Along with deregulation in both cases came a flood of new money, reckless lending and inadequate government supervision — a clear recipe for a costly disaster.

But Mr. Ludwig's concerns — passed along informally to a World Bank official at a meeting of international bankers in Madrid in 1994 — were rare flags of caution then, when international barriers to the flow of capital were fast disappearing and investors and financial institutions were pouring money into rapidly developing economies.

If there is one clear lesson from the turmoil that has so badly jolted Asia, it is that the financial systems in many rapidly growing countries were no match for the huge but fickle pools of money they attracted.

National systems intended to supervise banks have proven unable to keep pace with the rapid development of a global financial marketplace that pays little attention to borders. There is no international body able to be a global regulator. The United States and other big countries are unable to impose changes on the often reluctant governments and banks in countries at risk.

Efforts to bolster the soundness of financial systems in Asia and elsewhere by encouraging greater disclosure of financial data and by prodding large international banks to demand changes have so far yielded little if any success. A result is that to a remarkable extent, national economies and the international system are suddenly more at risk because of the ineffectiveness of obscure banking regulators in a few countries.

South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia are among the countries paying a steep price for the problems with their banks, and Japan is scrambling to avoid the same fate. The ripples have crossed the Pacific, unsettling Wall Street, hurting U.S. exporters and potentially curbing economic growth.

"In the early 1980s, the United States confused deregulation with supervision; and the same thing happened in Asia," said Charles Bowsher, the former head of the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress. "You pay a very big price, as we did in 1929 and the 1980s in this country, and what we're now seeing in Asia."

With the International Monetary Fund taking the lead, multinational organizations and national governments have pledged more than $100 billion to bail out economies in Asia, the largest international rescue in history. Yet, paradoxically, there is no global body with the ability or the mandate to manage the problem.

The main body for coordinating international bank regulation — a committee of worldwide regulators operating under the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland — has made little progress until now in getting countries to upgrade standards. The International Monetary Fund, recently thrust into the front lines of the battle to shore up banking systems, is a reluctant savior.

"The amount of detailed knowledge it takes to understand a system is beyond the capacity of a single multinational organization to deal with," said Stanley Fischer, the IMF's first deputy managing director. Collapses of big international financial institutions such as Bank of Credit & Commerce International in 1991 and Barings PLC in 1994 have pointed up the vulnerabilities in the system of supervising multinational banks. But the stakes now are much higher, involving entire economies.

While the IMF, other multinational bodies and national governments are willing to help, they lack the power that usually goes with being a lender of last resort — the ability to demand changes, before a crisis hits, in a bank's management.

"In the last few years, we've come to realize — and you may say it's late — that banking-system stability is more important for a wider range of countries," said Andrew Crockett, general manager of the Bank for International Settlements.

"It's the public sector, whose money is on the line, that prevents a financial meltdown, so the public sector has to have a voice," Mr. Crockett said. "How can we get these countries to adopt these standards? The answer is you can't."

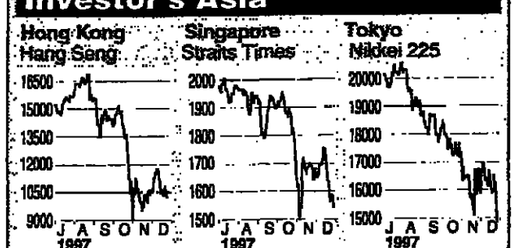
The limits of sovereignty concern bankers and others in the private sector. "National supervision of complex global firms and global markets is inadequate to meet the requirements of the times," said John Heimann, chairman for global financial institutions at Merrill Lynch. A recent study by private and public-sector specialists, for which Mr. Heimann was co-chairman, said that major financial institutions, in cooperation with supervisors, must take the lead in reducing global financial risk.

"The speed and complexity of innovation in the markets, the supervisors' inevitable position 'behind the curve' and their real handicaps in competing for talented staffers all argue for private institutions to take on greater responsibility," the study said.

But it is unclear whether the private sector will take on such a crucial role. In South Korea, for example, large Japanese, European and American banks may have been part of the problem rather than part of the solution, as they were among the financial institutions most exposed to huge losses there.

Meanwhile, the United States and other governments have been expending considerable effort to get countries to open up their financial markets. Washington, acting at the behest of American banks, pressed South Korea to do so a few years ago. But it "didn't help the Korean government prepare for these things — it went too fast," said Yoon Dae Euh, a professor of international finance at Korea University and former member of the South Korean Monetary Board.

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Monday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	10,172.47	10,405.81	-2.24
Singapore	Straits Times	1,541.65	1,572.61	-1.97
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,503.40	2,528.10	-0.98
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	14,799.40	15,314.89	-3.37
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	569.83	578.76	-1.54
Bangkok	SET	376.95	385.25	-2.15
Seoul	Composite Index	396.06	400.19	-1.03
Taipei	Stock Market Index	8,104.08	8,154.27	-0.62
Manila	PSE	1,887.18	1,858.22	+1.56
Jakarta	Composite Index	385.65	378.80	+1.86
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,300.62	2,300.95	-0.01
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,616.34	3,540.91	+2.13

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **Daiwa Bank Ltd.** and **IBM Japan Ltd.**, the Japanese subsidiary of **International Business Machines Corp.**, agreed to set up a joint venture in corporate computer systems.
- **Asian** regional airfares will rise as much as 9 percent in 1998 because of the recent sharp declines in many Asian currencies, according to the American Express Asia Pacific Airfare Index.
- **Hyundai Motor Co.**, South Korea's largest automaker, halted construction of a $150 million joint-venture car plant in Indonesia because of economic difficulties in both countries.
- **Qantas Airways Ltd.**'s domestic and international passenger traffic grew 5.1 percent in October despite predictions that travel would fall as the region's economies softened.
- **Taiwan's** Chiayi County invited **Bayer AG** to invest there after the company canceled a 50 billion Taiwan dollar ($1.55 billion) project to build a chemical plant in central Taiwan.
- **Pierre Cardin** of France granted **An Phuoc** a license to manufacture and distribute Cardin products in Vietnam after a dispute with its previous partner over bogus merchandise.
- **Barclays PLC** agreed to sell its BZW investment-banking branches in **Australia** and **New Zealand** to **ABN-AMRO Holding NV** for 177 million Australian dollars ($115.3 million). *AP, AFP*

Melbourne Casino Faults Its Luck

Agence France-Presse

SYDNEY — Bad luck and not bad management caused heavy losses for the Crown Casino in Melbourne in recent months, its top executive told regulators of the Australian Stock Exchange on Monday.

Crown Ltd.'s chairman, Lloyd Williams, said that losses to high rollers had caused the casino's win-loss ratio to drop. The commission is investigating whether the casino violated rules by not letting shareholders know about the losses sooner.

Crown announced Friday that it was seeking a bailout of 200 million Australian dollars ($130 million) for the casino.

Homestake Sets Purchase Of Plutonic

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MELBOURNE — Homestake Mining Co. said Monday it would acquire Plutonic Resources Ltd. of Australia in a $640 million stock deal that would increase the U.S. mining company's gold reserves.

Homestake said the acquisition would also create one of the world's largest gold-mining companies. Homestake's Australian operations would be the second largest in that country. Trading in the companies' shares had been suspended pending the announcement and is due to resume Tuesday morning.

Homestake said it would make the acquisition by issuing approximately 64.3 million shares, or 0.34 of a Homestake common share for each Plutonic ordinary share. When the transaction is completed, Plutonic shareholders will own about 30 percent of the enlarged Homestake. The transaction has been approved by the boards of both companies and is expected to close in April. It is subject to approval by shareholders.

The deal values Plutonic's shares at 5.20 Australian dollars ($3.25) each, an 86 percent premium over Friday's closing price of 2.80. At that price, the company's market value would be 970 million dollars. Peter Kuhl, resources analyst at the Melbourne-based stockbrokers D&D Tollhurst Ltd., said it was a "huge premium."

He said, "I'd say it's deliberately designed to shake off any competitors, especially those who want to get a blocking stake of, say, 5 to 10 percent and hold out to get a higher price for the shares."

Homestake said it expected the acquisition to increase its 1998 gold production by about 450,000 ounces (12,745 kilograms) and its 1999 gold production by about 600,000 ounces.

The company expects to achieve about $20 million in annual cost savings by combining Plutonic's operations and exploration business with its own in Australia. Homestake said the purchase would increase the U.S. company's gold reserves by about 2.2 million ounces from the 20.4 million ounces it reported at the end of 1996.

(Bridge News, Bloomberg)

Banking on Tokyo Real Estate

Goldman Sachs Unit Buys Up Property-Backed Bad Loans

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — A unit of Goldman, Sachs & Co. will buy as much as 500 billion yen ($3.86 billion) of property-backed bad loans from Japanese banks by the end of 1998 in the expectation that Japan's real-estate market will recover soon, the company said Monday.

The unit, Goldman Sachs Realty Japan, already bought 12.5 billion yen of such loans this month from an affiliate of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., a Goldman spokesman said.

While the borrowers have stopped making payments on these loans, the loans are backed by real estate, mostly in Tokyo. Goldman's Japanese real-estate subsidiary already owns about 10 properties in Japan that it acquired through similar loan purchases.

"From a medium- or long-term perspective, Japanese real estate is getting more attractive," a Goldman executive said.

Meanwhile, however, the risk of an escalating economic crisis in Japan grew Monday as stock prices slid to a 30-month low. Analysts called on the government to abandon its tight fiscal policy.

Among the immediate risks is a credit crunch in which Japanese banks tighten credit on companies, setting in motion a vicious circle that could push equities into a downward spiral, analysts said.

After losing 5.2 percent on Friday, the Tokyo Stock Exchange's Nikkei 225 stock average dropped 515.49 points, or 3.37 percent, to close at 14,799.40, its first close below 15,000 since July 5, 1995.

The stock slump is more worrying, analysts said, for what it implies about the market's reaction to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's economic-stimulus package, which was announced Wednesday. The plan includes income-tax cuts of 2 trillion yen and increased government spending.

Japanese banks are among the biggest victims of the stock-market slump, which further depresses the value of their securities as they seek to meet stricter capital requirements set to take effect April 1.

Japanese land prices plunged early this decade when the so-called bubble economy of the late 1980s crashed, leaving Japanese banks holding trillions of yen of bad loans and slowing the economy. The real-estate market has mostly been in a lull since then, but property values and occupancy rates in several of Tokyo's busiest business districts have been rising recently.

Goldman is negotiating with several other Japanese banks for similar deals, its spokesman said.

"In the next two or three years, there will be great opportunities for foreign investors wanting to buy Tokyo real estate," said Richard van Rooij, managing director at K. K. Halifax Associates in Tokyo, a real-estate broker specializing in foreign clients.

"Now is as good a time as any to step in the market if you take a long-term perspective," he said. *(AP, AFP, Bloomberg)*

Foreign Takeover at Thai Bank

Bloomberg News

SINGAPORE — Development Bank of Singapore Ltd. said Monday that it would buy control of Thai Danu Bank PCL in what would be the first majority ownership of a Thai bank by a foreign concern.

Several other foreign banks also are seeking to buy into cash-strapped Thai banks and finance companies. Thailand's currency, the baht, was devalued July 2, sending it into a free fall against the U.S. dollar and triggering a crisis in Thailand's finance industry that led to the shutdown of dozens of companies.

As part of the transaction, Thai Danu will sell 300 million new shares for a total of $133 million. The new shares are priced at 20 baht (45 cents) each, a 33 percent premium to Thai Danu's last traded price of 15 baht on Friday.

Development Bank of Singapore, which is controlled by the government and is the island state's biggest bank, will spend $119 million to buy 268 million shares, raising its stake in the bank to 50.27 percent from 3.4 percent. Government of Singapore Investment Corp. and another company related to the government will buy the rest of the new shares. The three companies will own about 57 percent of Thai Danu Bank, the development bank said.

"Our aim is to be a leading bank in the Asia-Pacific region, with growth through strategic partnerships and alliances as a major part of our strategy," Ng Kee Choe, president of the development bank, said.

The Singapore bank's purchase will "reinforce and strengthen" Thai Danu, which faces increased foreign competition, financial liberalization and the restructuring of Thailand's finance industry, said Pakorn Thavisin, Thai Danu's chairman.

Credit Suisse First Boston, NationsBank Corp., Commerzbank AG and the Singapore stockbrokerage Vickers Ballas Holdings Ltd. are among foreign companies that have either announced purchases or said they are looking to buy parts of Thai banking and finance companies.

Development Bank was planning to increase its stake in Sri Dhana Finance & Securities PCL, but that finance company was one of 56 that was shut down by the Thai government this month.

Thai Danu will have nonperforming loans equal to about 13.5 percent of its total loans as of the end of December, Development Bank said.

Teleglobe Will Offer Calling From Japan

Bloomberg News

TOKYO — Teleglobe Japan Inc., the Japanese subsidiary of Teleglobe Inc. of Canada, plans to provide international phone service in Japan by March.

Teleglobe's president in Japan, Koya Aoi, said users would be able to call to the United States for half the price of what Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co., or KDD, charges now. KDD charges a daytime standard rate of 450 yen (about $3.45) for a three-minute call between the countries. Japanese phone companies will deliver Teleglobe's phone services in Japan. Mr. Aoi did not say which companies would provide the service.

Teleglobe Japan, established in August, will provide international phone services in Japan by linking overseas business-designated circuits and lines owned by Japanese phone companies.

AT&T Corp. of the United States and British Telecommunications PLC have said they are thinking about providing similar services. That would put more pressure on KDD, which once had a monopoly on overseas phone service, to cut rates.

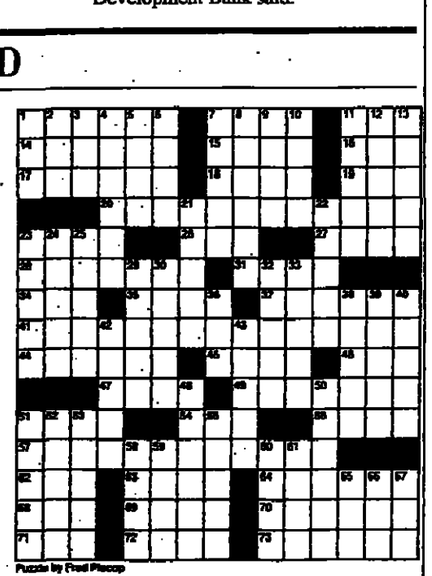
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Islands west of Portugal
7 Third place
11 Southern —
14 Barrio grocery
19 Hardly believable
16 "You — here"
17 Diane Keaton, to Woody Allen, often
18 Author Turgenev
19 Arrangement of masts
20 Lots, pricewise
22 H. H. Munro, pseudonymously
26 Velvet finish
27 Effortless
28 Ike of the O.K. Corral
31 Priestly garb
34 Josh
35 The Four Seasons' "Walk Like —"
37 Coffee shop emanations
41 Lots, lovewise
44 Make some after-the-whistle contact
45 Dutch portraitist Frans
46 Fr. preceder
47 Sabbath activity
48 Deck out
51 Jump out of one's skin?
54 Dine
56 Chess castle
57 Lots, timewise
62 Boxers' letters?
63 Bowser's bowlful
64 Ducks
68 Brain scan, for short
69 Boo-boo
70 Chewy confection
71 High-pH substance
72 Dog's breath
73 Cleopatra's love

DOWN

1 "20/20" network
2 Where to do some petting
3 Takes too much
4 Hire, as counsel
5 Richard of "A Summer Place"
6 Franklin D.'s mother
7 Gunk
8 Harbor where the Maine blew up
9 Mideast land
10 Proceed
11 "Cheers" waitress
12 80's Dodge
13 Having attractive gams
21 Of the kidneys
22 Ancient moralist
23 Dump into a Dumpster
24 "I ran out of gas," e.g.
25 Afghan capital
29 Sierra Nevada lake
30 Future signs
32 Serve, as stew
33 Chutzpah
36 Stingy refusal
38 Copycat's words
39 Allergy-season sound
40 — — cabbage
42 Sealy rival
43 1993 treaty, briefly
48 Tough pickup for some bowlers
50 Audition
51 Old-time actress Normand
52 Hand-wringer's words
53 Rock shelf
55 Vote to accept
58 Heavy file
59 Milan's Teatro — — Scala
60 "Two Years Before the Mast" writer
61 (Ding-dong) "— — calling"
65 Billy Joel's "— — to Extremes"
66 Dapper fellow?
67 Piggery



Puzzle by Fred Piscop

© *New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz*

Solution to Puzzle of Dec. 22

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G	R	E	A	T		R	E	N	E		T	A	R	O

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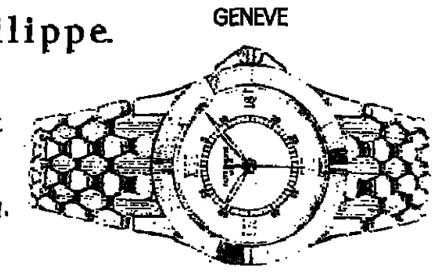

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EUROPE

Israel's Boom Skips the Negev

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

OFAQIM, Israel — Israel Herman knows the good news of recent years about the Israeli economy. But in this depressed town on the dry plain of the Negev, he hasn't seen it.

A boom that transformed and enriched much of Israel's economy from 1990 to 1995 has subsided in the last two years. Even before it did, many parts of the economy did not benefit. Israel started the boom by dismantling its traditional centralized control and heavy state ownership of the economy. Next, its 1993 peace accord with the Palestinians dissolved the decades-long Arab boycott that had kept this country semi-isolated from the world economy. Finally, a wave of immigrants from the former Soviet Union accelerated spending and construction.

Much of Israel's economy — notably a prosperous new high-technology sector — made the leap into the global marketplace, suddenly finding new customers, especially in Asia. Through 1995, exports soared, investment flowed, and tourists flocked to what seemed to be a newly tranquil and hopeful land.

In 1994 and 1995, gross domestic product expanded about 7 percent, before sliding back to 2 percent growth this year, according to official estimates. By the time the surge ended, it had raised the average per-capita income of Israelis to near that of Britons.

But that transformation was focused in central Israel, on the coastal plain between the Tel Aviv metropolitan area and Haifa, to the north. Here in the south, in the Negev, in what Israelis call a "development town" on the periphery of the country's economy, the boom never arrived. The economy subsided partly because demand, after starting to surge in late 1989 to provide basic housing and goods for the 710,000 Soviet immigrants who began arriving, fell when the influx ended in 1995. After that, the stalling of the Mideast peace process quashed tourism and, according to some analysts, hindered domestic investment. This year, the economic decline in Asia has helped to flatten what had been steadily growing Israeli exports.

According to free-market economists, growth slowed mainly because the economy already had taken advantage of the new opportunities created by liberalization and privatization and was waiting for more. The state still owns huge chunks of Israeli business.

Banking and other sectors, including public transportation and oil refining, are either monopolies or dominated by a few companies. In addition, the government still owns 95 percent of the land, creating distortions in the real-estate market, said David Rosenberg, editor of Jerusalem Technology Investor, an investment newsletter.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office last year with a program of more liberalization, privatization and government budget cuts. But Mr. Netanyahu faces resistance from competing economic interests among the half-dozen parties in his coalition government, as well as from strong unions.

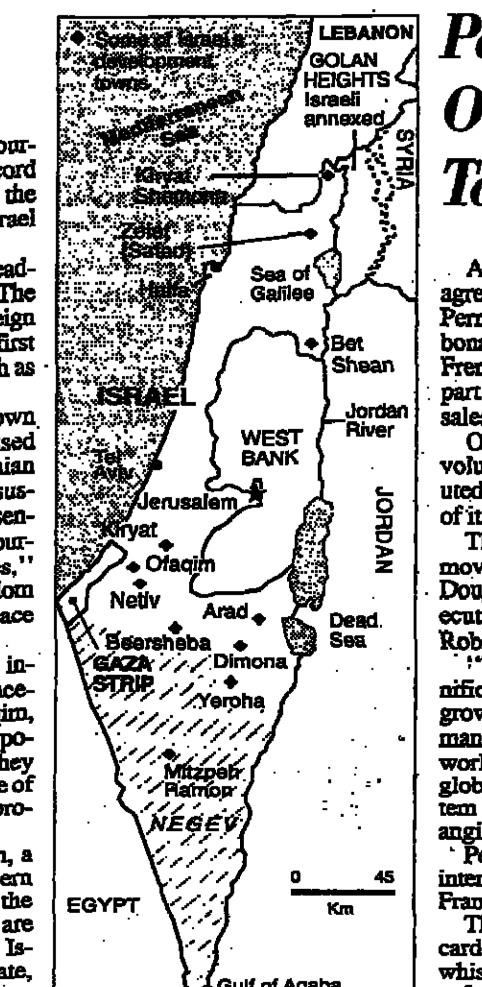
The stalling of the peace process — as well as clashes and Palestinian terrorist attacks — damaged tourism, a sector that earned record amounts for three years after the 1993 peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians.

The effects of the diplomatic deadlock on investment are less clear. The Bank of Israel reported net foreign investment of $2.6 billion in the first three quarters of 1997 — as much as was invested in all of 1996.

While the diplomatic breakdown has poisoned politics and raised fears of renewed Israeli-Palestinian violence, a few factors have sustained investment, in Mr. Rosenberg's view. Mr. Netanyahu "is pursuing the right economic policies," he said. "The conventional wisdom among investors is that the peace process is not dead."

But other specialists say that investment would be greater if peacemaking were not stalled. In Ofaqim, Mr. Herman said, three of 15 potential investors have told him they are holding up their plans because of concern that the faltering peace process could bring new instability.

It is in places such as Ofaqim, a town of 24,000 in the northern Negev near the Gaza Strip, that the limits of the recent boom are clearest. Ofaqim chronically has Israel's highest unemployment rate, currently 14 percent.



Asian Slump Cuts De Beers's 2d-Half Diamond Sales 16%

Bloomberg News

JOHANNESBURG — De Beers/Centenary AG said Monday that sales of its uncut diamonds have slumped 16 percent in the second half of this year from a year earlier, to $1.76 billion, amid the economic slowdown in Asia.

De Beers, which also said it would become an independently managed company separate from Anglo American Corp., described the difference between the first and second halves of the year as "dramatic." Sales in the first six months of 1997 were a record $2.88 billion and allowed the company to report a full-year sales total of $4.64 billion, only 4 percent lower than last year's record.

Tumbling currencies, higher interest rates and slower economic growth in Southeast Asia and Japan all affected performance, in the second half, which was originally expected to follow on the success of the first six months of the year, De Beers said.

"These expectations have been significantly reduced as a result of the continued recession in Japan and the economic and currency problems which emerged from midyear in Korea, Taiwan and Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries," the company said.

De Beers, through its marketing unit, the London-based Central Selling Organization, controls the distribution of about 70 percent of the world's uncut gem-quality diamonds. De Beers's stock closed at 100 rand ($20.57), up 0.50.

Pernod to Sell Orangina Line To Coca-Cola

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ATLANTA — Coca-Cola Co. agreed Monday to buy Orangina, Pernod Ricard SA's brand of carbonated orange drink, for 5 billion French francs ($841.9 million) as part of its effort to build its beverage sales in Europe.

Orangina's worldwide annual volume is 52 million cases distributed in 60 countries, and 80 percent of its volume is in Europe.

The acquisition is the first major move at Coca-Cola since M. Douglas Ivester became chief executive in October after the death of Roberto Goizueta.

"The Orangina brand has significant opportunity for future growth, not only in Europe but in many other markets around the world," Mr. Ivester said. "The truly global nature of the Coca-Cola system will allow us to extend Orangina's reach even further."

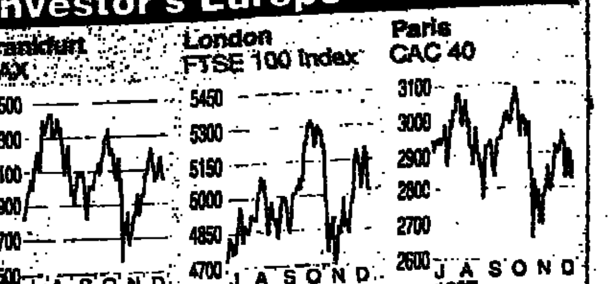
Pernod Ricard acquired Orangina internationally in 1981 and in France in 1984.

The sale will allow Pernod Ricard, which makes Jameson Irish whiskey and Wild Turkey bourbon, to focus on its more profitable spirits businesses as that industry consolidates. It could use the money to buy some of the brands that Guinness PLC and Grand Metropolitan PLC must sell for antitrust reasons as they merge, analysts said.

The sale also includes four bottling and concentrate plants in France. The brands Orangina Plus, Orangina Light and Orangina Rouge are included in the agreement, but Brut de Pomme, Ricqles and Pam Pam are excluded.

Trading in Pernod Ricard's shares was suspended Monday. Coca-Cola's shares were up 50 cents in late trading at $65.9375. Pernod Ricard shares rose 17 francs Friday to 339. *(Bloomberg, AFP)*

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Monday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	AEX	884.82	879.49	+0.61
Brussels	BEL-20	2,391.52	2,454.34	-2.56
Frankfurt	DAX	4,043.02	4,084.75	-1.02
Copenhagen	Stock Market	647.81	649.81	-0.31
Helsinki	HEX General	3,210.97	3,156.57	+1.72
Oslo	OBX	649.50	658.21	-1.32
London	FTSE 100	5,018.20	5,020.20	-0.04
Madrid	Stock Exchange	615.56	614.94	+0.10
Milan	MIBTEL	16168	15931	+1.49
Paris	CAC 40	2,869.73	2,822.90	+1.66
Stockholm	SX 16	3,094.86	3,080.08	+0.48
Vienna	ATX	1,247.96	1,249.97	-0.16
Zurich	SPI	3,770.40	3,738.24	+0.86

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **Austin Reed Group PLC**, a British clothing retailer, agreed to buy **Country Casuals Holdings PLC** for 135 pence per share, valuing it at £25.9 million ($43.2 million).
- **Barclays PLC** will contract out the management of its £1 billion property portfolio and reduce staffing levels in its property-management business to cut costs.
- **Britain's** economy expanded 0.8 percent in the third quarter compared with the second quarter and 3.7 percent from the like period a year earlier.
- **AO Lukoil Holding**, Russia's largest oil producer, said its nine-month net profit fell 8 percent, to 2.408 trillion rubles ($405.2 million), as rising taxes hurt sales.
- **Eurotunnel's** shares soared after Britain and France agreed to a 34-year extension of its lease to run the Channel Tunnel. Eurotunnel units, the equivalent of one share in Eurotunnel PLC and one in its sister company, Eurotunnel SA, rose 6 pence, or 10.5 percent, to 63 pence in London, and climbed 65 centimes, or 12 percent, to 6.10 francs ($1.03) in Paris.
- **Credit Commercial de France SA** will buy the 50 percent of **Charterhouse PLC** it does not own from **BHF Bank AG** to expand its investment-banking business. *Bloomberg*

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Monday, Dec. 22
Prices in local currencies.
Telekurs

Amsterdam
AEX Index: 884.82
Previous: 879.49

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	39.50	38.60	38.90	39.10
Aegon	176.30	173.60	175.90	174.60
Ahold	52.40	50.70	52	50.70
Akzo Nobel	331	321	322.50	329
Baan Co.	65.40	63.50	64.70	64.80
Bols Wess cva	31.30	30.70	31.20	31
CSM cva	87	86.20	86.90	86.50
Dordtsche Pet	105.80	104	105.80	104.50
DSM	180.80	179	179	179.30
Elsevier	32.80	32.20	32.50	32.70
Fortis Amev	86.30	83.80	85.50	84.10
Getronics	65.50	64.10	64.80	64.20
G-Broc cva	51	49.80	50.20	49.50
Hagemeyer	83.80	81.30	83	82.30
Heineken	342.50	337.10	340.80	339.70
Hoogovens cva	83	81.50	82.80	82.60
Hunt Douglas	74.50	72	72	74
ING Group	83.30	80.50	82.50	81.10
KLM	74	72.80	74	73.80
KNP BT	44.50	43.50	43.60	43.60
KPN	81	79.50	80.20	80.70
Nedlloyd Gp	44.30	43	44	43.60
Nutricia	60.50	59	60.20	59.50
Oce Grinten	222.50	214.50	222.40	216.50
Philips Elec	121	115.70	119.40	116.80
Polygram	98.90	97	97	98.50
Randstad Hdg	77	74	76	76.90
Robeco	184	182.80	183	185.80
Rodamco	57.20	56.80	57	57
Rolinco	172.10	171.70	172	172.60
Rorento	121	120.70	121	120
Royal Dutch	107.30	105.10	107.30	106
Unilever cva	120	118.60	119.20	118.90
Vendex Intl	106.70	104.60	106.20	106.60
VNU	57.70	52.50	54.40	53.90
Wolters Kl cva	259.50	254.80	257.30	257.90

Bangkok
SET Index: 376.95
Previous: 385.25

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	238	226	230	240
Bangkok Bk F	133	122	125	136
Krung Thai Bk	11	10.50	10.75	11
PTT Explor	400	394	394	400
Siam Cement F	352	348	348	358
Siam Com Bk F	53	51	52.50	53.50
Telecomasia	11.25	9.70	9.70	11
Thai Airways	49.25	48.50	48.50	49.25
Thai Farm Bk F	96.50	94	95	101
Utd Comm	19.50	18.25	19.50	19.75

Bombay
Sensex 30 index: 3416.34
Previous: 3540.91

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bajaj Auto	625	612	621	609.75
Hindust Lever	1448	1404.75	1416.25	1395
Hindust Petm	480	470	474	464.50
Ind Dev Bk	87	84.75	86.75	83.75
ITC	618	590	610	589.25
Mahanagar Tel	261.50	252	260	250
Reliance Ind	164.75	161.50	163	160.75
State Bk India	231.50	227	230.75	225
Steel Authority	10	9.75	9.75	9.75
Tata Eng Loco	289.75	281.50	284	286

Brussels
BEL-20 index: 2391.52
Previous: 2454.34

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Almanij	1895	1850	1860	1900
Barco Ind	6720	6610	6660	6680
BBL	9690	9420	9570	9800
CBR	3415	3360	3400	3380
Colruyt	18250	17875	17950	17900
Delhaize Lion	1855	1805	1805	1750
Electrabel	8480	8400	8420	8500
Electrafina	3445	3360	3400	3450
Fortis AG	7640	7500	7630	8000
Gevaert	1700	1670	1700	1700
GBL	5550	5390	5400	5800
Gen Banque	16225	16000	16025	16175
Kredietbank	16000	15625	15700	15750
Petrofina	14300	14025	14200	14400
Powerfin	5340	5300	5340	5250
Royale Belge	10600	10075	10075	10950
Soc Gen Belg	3400	3350	3355	3300
Solvay	2290	2250	2260	2300
Tractebel	3225	3190	3205	3400
UCB	122500	120000	121800	118000

Copenhagen
Stock Index: 647.81
Previous: 649.81

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
BG Bank	457	449	457	470.06
Carlsberg B	368	351	363	353
Codan Fors	1003	980	998	990
Danisco	376	359	375	365
Den Danske Bk	877	860	877	870.37
D/S Svendbrg B	420000	405000	412088	411000
D/S 1912 B	295000	281718	293000	287000
FLS Ind B	170	159.84	165	165.21
Kob Lufthavne	801.15	779	800	795
Novo Nordisk B	915	874	915	880
Sophus Ber B	1067.66	1049	1050	1060
Tele Danmk B	425	414	425	420
Tryg Baltica	446.34	433	445	447
Unidanmark A	539.46	497	505	503

Frankfurt
DAX: 4043.02
Previous: 4084.75

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMB B	200	197.50	198.80	190.50
Adidas	230	222.50	228.80	225.50
Allianz	454	447.50	453	455.50
Altana	120.10	117.50	117.55	120.10
Axa Colonia	168.50	165	167	163.50
Bk Berlin	40.20	40	40.15	40.50
BASF	60.50	59	59.30	60.70
Bayer Hypo Bk	88.60	86.70	88.20	90.50
Bay.Vereinsbank	119.50	117.50	117.50	119
Bayer	60.90	59.95	60	60.70
Beiersdorf	74.50	73.50	73.80	73.90
Bewag	52.25	50.70	52.20	50.20
BMW	1220	1207	1212	1235
Commerzbank	74.90	71	72.50	74.80
Daimler Benz	116	113.20	113.30	117.20
Degussa	85.50	84	85	84.40
Deutsche Bank	124.50	122.10	124.10	123.95
Deut Telekom	31.80	31.03	31.25	31
Dresdner Bank	81.30	80.50	81.10	81.10
Fresenius	304	298	303	301
Fresenius Med	118.50	116.50	118.50	118.50
Fried. Krupp	324	316.80	316.80	320
Gehe	96	92.50	94.70	96.50
Heidelbg Zmt	127	125	125.50	126
Henkel pfd	108.25	106.75	108	109.20
HEW	464	463	462	462
Hochtief	71	67.50	70.50	66
Hoechst	60.12	58.70	58.80	60.60
Karstadt	612	598	610	615
Lahmeyer	72.90	72	72	73
Linde	1070	1040	1050	1072
Lufthansa R	32.15	31.40	31.90	31.50
MAN	500	492	493	504
Mannesmann	882	860	879	875
Metallgesellschaft	31	30.60	31	31.50
Metro	64.40	62.80	63.75	64.30
Munch Rueck R	655	646	652	655
Preussag	540	524	525	517
RWE	93	90.70	91.70	94.10
SAP	513	505	508.20	505
Schering	174.80	172.50	173.80	176.90
SGL Carbon	228.50	220	228	219
Siemens	101.40	100.15	100.55	100.55
Springer (Axel)	1290	1290	1290	1312
Suedzucker	880	877	877	867
Thyssen	381	375.50	375.50	385.90
Veba	115.70	114.10	115.10	116.70
VEW	570	570	570	594
Viag	965	948	955	979
Volkswagen	949	943	945	948

Helsinki
HEX General index: 3210.97
Previous: 3156.57

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Enso A	42	41.50	41.50	42
Huhtamaki I	210	205	208	207
Kemira	50.90	50	50.90	50.50
Kesko	84	83	83.50	83
Merita A	28.50	27	28.30	27.60
Metra B	122.50	121	122.20	123
Metso-Serla B	40	39	39.80	40
Neste	133	128	128.40	130
Nokia A	383	361	376	358
Orion-Yhtymae	135	131	135	135
Outokumpu	63.50	62	63	62.50
UPM Kymmene	107	102.30	106	102.40
Valmet	74	73.50	73.60	75

Hong Kong
Hang Seng: 10172.47
Previous: 10485.81

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	6.55	6.40	6.55	6.65
Bk East Asia	17.80	17.10	17.55	17.85
Cathay Pacific	5.80	5.35	5.45	5.75
Cheung Kong	49.30	47.40	48.10	49.30
CK Infrastruct	20.90	19.85	20.10	20.90
China Light	42.20	40	40.50	41.40
Citic Pacific	31	30	30.30	30.80
Dao Heng Bk	19.90	19	19.10	20
First Pacific	3.65	3.40	3.50	3.70
Hang Lung Dev	10.50	10.35	10.40	10.55
Hang Seng Bk	71.75	69.75	70.75	72
Henderson Inv	6.05	5.70	5.95	6.05
Henderson Ld	36.10	34.50	34.80	34.30
HK China Gas	14.15	13.80	14	14.20
HK Electric	28.15	27.65	28	27.90
HK Telecomm	15.20	14.60	14.70	15.15
Hopewell Hdgs	1.92	1.75	1.82	1.94
HSBC Hdgs	184.50	180.50	183.50	188
Hutchison Wh	46.90	45.40	45.90	46.80
Hysan Dev	15.20	14.90	14.95	15.20
Johnson El Hdg	22.20	21.30	21.30	21.70
Kerry Props	12.80	12.50	12.80	12.50
New World Dev	25.90	25	25.25	25.70
Oriental Press	2.28	2.25	2.25	2.28
Pearl Oriental	0.46	0.41	0.41	0.46
SHK Props	54	51	51.50	54
Shun Tak Hdgs	2.25	2.13	2.15	2.30
Sino Land Co.	4.48	4.23	4.33	4.53
Sth China Post	5.50	5.10	5.10	5.35
Swire Pac A	40.20	39.20	39.90	40.10
Wharf Hdgs	16.20	15.65	16.15	16.10
Wheelock	8.85	8.60	8.60	8.80

Jakarta
Composite index: 385.85
Previous: 378.88

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Astra Intl	1500	1450	1475	1525
Bk Intl Indon	375	350	375	350
Bk Negara	550	500	550	525
Gudang Garm	8150	8000	8075	8100
Indocement	1675	1575	1675	1575
Indofood	1900	1800	1900	1875
Indosat	9400	9200	9400	9500
Sampoerna HM	4150	4000	4100	4150
Semen Gresik	3275	2900	3225	2900
Telekomunikasi	2825	2625	2800	2700

Johannesburg
All Market: 6042.24
Previous: 6049.86

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABSA Group	28	27.65	27.70	27.70
AngloAm Coal	223.80	222	223.80	222
AngloAm-Corp	193.40	192	193.40	194.40
AngloAm Gold	179	177	179	177
AngloAm Ind	119.20	117.60	119.20	118.20
AngloAM Plat	69.90	69.50	69.50	69.70
AVMIN	5.80	5.60	5.75	5.30
Barlow	40.50	40.15	40.40	40.50
C.G. Smith	19	18.50	19.25	18.95
De Beers	100.40	98.10	100	99.50
Driefontein	33.30	33.05	33.10	33.05
Fst Natl Bk	40.40	40	40.40	40
Gencor	7.15	7.08	7.16	7.11
GFSA	70	68.90	70	68.90
Imperial Hdgs	50.90	50	51.10	50.60
Ingwe Coal	17	16.80	16.80	17.25
Iscor	1.46	1.42	1.45	1.46
Johnnies Indl	49.50	48.80	49.50	48.65
Liberty Hdgs	334	316	316	325
Liberty Life	119	115	118	120
LibLife Strat	15	14.80	15	14.80
Minorco	82	79	82	82.70
Nampak	15	14.50	14.90	14.85
Nedcor	106.20	105.60	106.20	107.40
Rembrandt Gp	34.50	33.75	34	35
Richemont	52.50	52.30	52.40	53.60
SA Breweries	118	115	117	116.60
Samancor	22.95	22.95	22.95	23
Sasol	50	49	50	49.80
SBIC	212	205	212	205.20
Tiger Oats	65.50	65.20	65.50	66.40

Kuala Lumpur
Composite: 549.82
Previous: 578.76

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMMB Hdgs	2.14	1.90	1.92	2.16
Genting	10.60	9.95	10.50	10.30
Mal Banking	10	9.60	9.80	10
Mal Intl Ship F	5.45	5.10	5.40	5.10
Petronas Gas	9.25	8.80	8.95	9.25
Proton	4.24	3.88	3.90	4.26
Public Bk	1.56	1.48	1.49	1.56
Renong	Susp.	Susp.	Susp.	1.80
Resorts World	6.75	6.25	6.65	6.75
Rothmans PM	31.75	28.75	30.50	28.50
Sime Darby	3.66	3.48	3.64	3.62
Telekom Mal	11.30	10.30	11.20	10.80
Tenaga	7.20	6.70	6.90	7.25
Utd Engineers	Susp.	Susp.	Susp.	3.24
YTL	4.96	4.78	4.98	4.96

London
FT-SE 100: 5018.20
Previous: 5020.20

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	10.85	10.17	10.56	10.56
Allied Domecq	5.23	5.11	5.14	5.10
Anglian Water	8.30	8.15	8.29	8.33
Argos	5.52	5.43	5.46	5.55
Asda Group	1.78	1.76	1.77	1.76
Assoc Br Foods	5.43	5.21	5.41	5.37
BAA	5.02	4.83	4.98	4.90
Barclays	16.30	15.95	16.11	16.06
Bass	9.19	9	9.07	9.12
BAT Ind	5.49	5.34	5.45	5.40
Bank Scotland	5.77	5.53	5.66	5.73
Blue Circle	3.19	2.82	3.15	3.12
BOC Group	9.79	9.57	9.45	9.61
Boots	8.98	8.54	8.85	8.63
BPB Ind	3.38	3.32	3.36	3.35
Brit Aerosp	17.08	16.75	16.85	16.71
Brit Airways	5.64	5.54	5.57	5.56
BG	2.78	2.71	2.75	2.78
Brit Land	6.75	6.52	6.64	6.53
Brit Petm	8.10	7.94	7.98	7.92
BSkyB	4.63	4.41	4.44	4.55
Brit Steel	1.36	1.28	1.31	1.38
Brit Telecom	4.70	4.60	4.67	4.62
BTR	1.84	1.78	1.81	1.80
Burmah Castrol	10.38	10	10.10	10.37
Burton Gp	1.35	1.33	1.34	1.36
Cable Wireless	5.37	5.22	5.30	5.32
Cadbury Schw	6.24	6.03	6.20	6.13
Carlton Comm	4.55	4.47	4.53	4.47
Coml Union	8.70	8.40	8.59	8.52
Compass Gp	7.35	7.20	7.26	7.37
Courtaulds	2.97	2.91	2.93	2.93
Diageo	5.88	5.65	5.88	5.70
Dixons	6.05	5.97	6	5.98
Electrocomponents	4.58	4.53	4.53	4.56
EMI Group	4.73	4.53	4.70	4.61
Energy Group	6.90	6.67	6.75	6.65
Enterprise Oil	5.77	5.70	5.72	5.71
Fam Colonial	1.67	1.66	1.66	1.68
Genl Accident	10.75	10.22	10.51	10.30
GEC	4.01	3.84	3.86	3.93
GKN	12.52	12.22	12.34	12.35
Glaxo Wellcome	14.26	14	14.17	13.95
Granada Gp	9.14	8.93	9.07	9.01
GRE	3.32	3.23	3.24	3.22
Greenalls Gp	4.30	4.25	4.25	4.27
GUS	7.29	7.21	7.22	7.33
Hays	7.95	7.68	7.86	7.93
HSBC Hldgs	14.69	14.24	14.52	14.43
ICI	9.24	8.90	9.21	9.16
Impl Tobacco	3.94	3.92	3.94	3.94
Kingfisher	8.50	8.25	8.25	8.35
Ladbroke	2.73	2.65	2.69	2.68
Land Sec	10.20	9.60	9.67	9.53
Lasmo	2.68	2.63	2.66	2.66
Legal Genl Grp	5.15	4.92	5.04	4.80
Lloyds TSB Gp	7.50	7.22	7.44	7.36
LucasVarity	2.18	2.06	2.14	2.06
Marks Spencer	5.92	5.71	5.85	5.80
MEPC	5.15	5.08	5.08	5.15
Mercury Asset	16.94	16.86	16.86	16.95
National Grid	2.98	2.83	2.89	2.87
Natl Power	5.85	5.65	5.76	5.77
NatWest	10.37	9.92	10.18	10.53
Next	6.80	6.66	6.72	6.83
Norwich Union	3.85	3.76	3.78	3.74
Orange	2.65	2.47	2.49	2.62
P&O	6.89	6.81	6.83	6.81
Pearson	7.97	7.70	7.72	7.66
Pilkington	1.24	1.21	1.22	1.23
PowerGen	8.15	8	8.07	8.13
Premier Farnell	4.15	4.07	4.07	4.13
Prudential	7.30	7.17	7.21	7.20
Railtrack Gp	9.50	9.10	9.27	9.31
Rank Group	3.38	3.34	3.36	3.36
Reckitt Colm	9.30	8.97	9.02	9.05
Redland	3.45	3.42	3.44	3.44
Reed Intl	6.10	5.95	6.01	5.93
Rentokil Initial	2.58	2.46	2.52	2.54
Reuters Hdgs	6.51	6.30	6.34	6.46
Rexam	2.85	2.81	2.83	2.82
RTZ reg	7.34	6.80	7.17	6.96
RMC Group	8.65	8.30	8.42	7.80
Rolls Royce	2.31	2.12	2.24	2.15
Royal Bk Scot	7.54	7.37	7.43	7.30
Royal & Sun All	5.99	5.65	5.83	5.94
Safeway	3.32	3.26	3.29	3.24
Sainsbury	4.95	4.84	4.85	4.86
Schroders	19.10	18.25	18.95	18.01
Scot Newcastle	7.48	7.20	7.38	7.54
Scot Power	5.29	5.11	5.16	5.26
Securicor	2.83	2.80	2.80	2.83
Severn Trent	9.93	9.80	9.93	9.88
Shell Transp R	4.27	4.21	4.24	4.16
Siebe	11.50	11	11.19	11.05
Smith Nephew	1.85	1.79	1.79	1.85
SmithKline	6.35	6.03	6.19	6.05
Smiths Ind	8.38	8.12	8.26	8.25
Sthern Elec	4.80	4.80	5.02	4.84
Stagecoach	8.10	8.05	8.10	8.05
Stand Charter	6.77	6.40	6.55	6.51
Tate & Lyle	4.97	4.92	4.94	4.94
Tesco	4.97	4.82	4.83	4.83
Thames Water	8.80	8.45	8.74	8.25
3i Group	5.11	5	5.09	5.05
TI Group	4.68	4.25	4.54	4.71
Tomkins	2.99	2.94	2.96	2.95
Unilever	4.92	4.84	4.88	4.89
Utd Assurance	5.27	5.20	5.24	5.25
Utd News	7.15	6.98	7.05	6.85
Utd Utilities	7.80	7.38	7.64	7.75
Vendome Lx uts	4.82	4.70	4.70	4.60
Vodafone	4.40	4.30	4.38	4.34
Whitbread	9.08	8.77	8.90	8.93
Williams Hdgs	3.45	3.30	3.40	3.41
Wolseley	5.10	4.88	4.92	4.92
WPP Group	2.67	2.64	2.66	2.64
Zeneca	20.72	20.45	20.58	20.44

Madrid
Bolsa index: 615.56
Previous: 614.94

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	22450	21200	21970	21510
ACESA	1980	1945	1955	1965
Aguas Barcelon	6280	6110	6270	6250
Argentaria	9230	9140	9150	9230
BBV	4630	4490	4625	4580
Banesto	1495	1450	1480	1460
Bankinter	8390	8080	8300	8170
Bco Centro Hisp	3450	3385	3445	3445
Bco Popular	10160	10010	10150	10150
Bco Santander	4580	4500	4560	4560
CEPSA	4700	4595	4660	4755
Continente	2735	2685	2710	2680
Corp. Mafre	3875	3605	3835	0.00
Endesa	2810	2735	2795	2775
FECSA	1250	1230	1240	1245
Gas Natural	7750	7450	7700	7650
Iberdrola	1980	1955	1965	1970
Pryca	2145	2095	2145	2090
Repsol	6460	6320	6420	6360
Sevillana Elec	1405	1375	1395	1385
Tabacalera	12070	11920	11950	12000
Telefonica	4500	4400	4425	4450
Union Fenosa	1435	1420	1435	1440
Valenc Cement	2915	2880	2915	2910

Manila
PSE Index: 1887.18
Previous: 1858.72

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ayala	16	15.25	16	15
Ayala Land	15.75	15.25	15.50	15
Bk Philip Isl	87	87	87	88
C&P Homes	2.46	2.36	2.36	2.46
Manila Elec A	84	81.50	84	82
Metro Bank	280	270	275	272.50
Petron	3.55	3.50	3.50	3.50
PCIBank	129	120	122	125
Phil Long Dist	885	870	880	855
San Miguel B	50.50	50	50	50
SM Prime Hdg	6.20	6.10	6.20	6.30

Mexico
Bolsa index: 4919.92
Previous: 4946.53

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	52.20	49.80	50.20	51.90
Banacci B	22.15	21.90	22.10	22.15
Cemex CPO	35.50	35.10	35.20	35.50
Cifra C	17.56	17.40	17.54	17.40
Emp Modema	42.50	41.70	41.70	41.70
Gpo Carso A1	52.40	51.08	51.70	52.30
Gpo F Bcomer	3.07	2.94	2.98	2.97
Gpo Fin Inbursa	32.50	31.50	32.00	31.30
Kimb Clark Mex	34.85	33.75	33.95	34.85
Televisa CPO	150.60	149.80	149.80	150.60
TelMex L	20.95	20.70	20.90	20.90

Milan
MIB Telematico: 16168.00
Previous: 15931.00

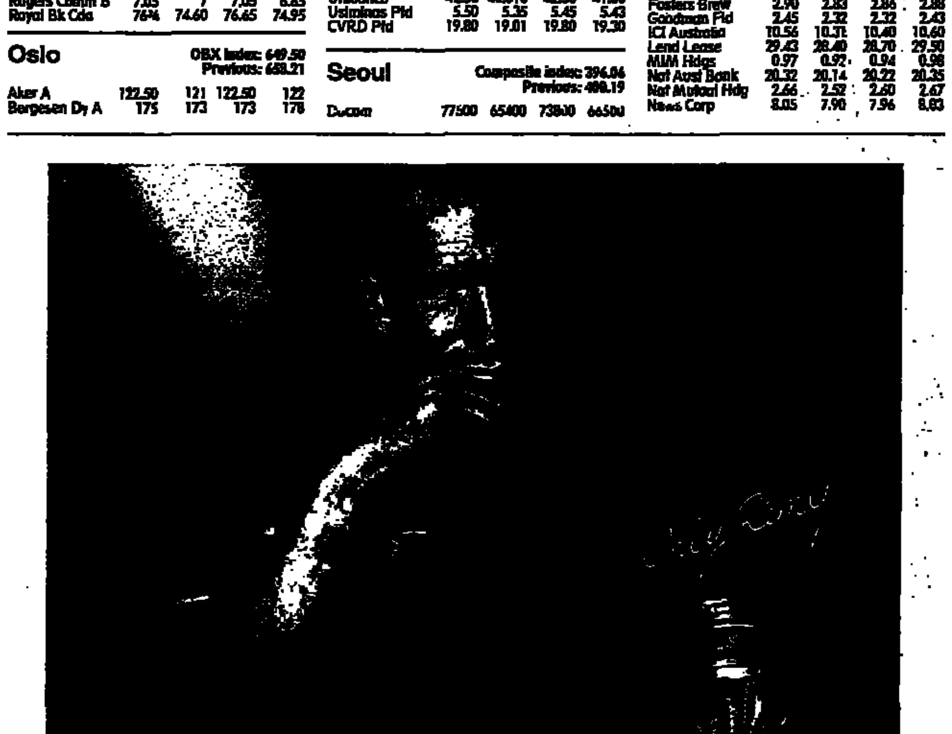
	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	17390	16700	17390	17100
Bca Comm Ital	5740	5400	5740	5500
Bca Fideuram	7430	7210	7415	7230
Bca di Roma	1577	1525	1575	1535
Benetton	28450	27750	28450	27700
Credito Italiano	5245	5125	5150	5160
Edison	10440	10050	10395	10060
ENI	9795	9715	9770	9725
Fiat	5020	4915	4995	4915
Generali Assic	42000	41150	42000	42100
IMI	20240	19605	20190	19850
INA	3425	3240	3400	3230
Italgas	7000	6830	7000	6910
Mediaset	8300	8200	8250	8230
Mediobanca	13400	12660	13400	13020
Montedison	1525	1480	1521	1481
Olivetti	1041	1006	1041	1005
Parmalat	2370	2315	2345	2345
Pirelli	4550	4420	4540	4470
RAS	16475	16010	16435	16100
Rolo Banca	24900	24300	24900	24450
S Paolo Torino	16900	16250	16900	16510
Telecom Italia	10900	10685	10900	10700
TIM	7930	7605	7850	7590

Montreal
Industrials index: 3195.18
Previous: 3175.17

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bce Mob Com	36	35	36	36.15
Cdn Tire A	30½	29.20	30½	28.85
Cdn Util A	41.10	40.90	40.90	40.90
CT Finl Svc	53¼	53¼	53¼	54
Gaz Metro	18.35	17.90	18.25	17.95
Gt-West Lifeco	38	37.30	38	37⅛
Imasco	50.60	50⅛	50.55	50.30
Investors Grp	44.80	44.30	44.50	44.60
Loblaw Cos	26⅛	26½	26¾	26.70
Natl Bk Canada	24.15	23⅞	24.05	23.80
Power Corp	50.15	49.60	49.60	50
Power Finl	48⅞	48⅞	48½	48.80
Quebecor B	27.60	27.35	27.55	27.35
Rogers Comm B	7.05	7	7.05	6.85
Royal Bk Cda	76⅞	74.60	76.65	74.95

Oslo
OBX Index: 649.50
Previous: 658.21

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	122.50	121	122.50	122
Bergesen Dy A	175	173	173	178
Christiania Bk	28.30	27.60	28	28.30
Den norske Bk	34.20	33.70	34.30	34.20
Elkem	88	86	87.50	89
Hafslund A	45	43.50	45	45
Kvaerner	357	353	357	359
Norsk Hydro	341	332	332.50	340
Norske Skog A	209	205	206	210
Nycomed Amer	172.50	172	172	174
Orkla A	628	618	621	620
Petm GeoSvc	453	443.50	448.50	450
Saga Petm A	122	119	121.50	123
Schibsted	122	119	120	124
Transocean Off	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	320
Storebrand	51.50	51	51.50	52.50



Paris
CAC-40: 2869.73
Previous: 2822.90

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	1154	1103	1138	1120
AGF	317	314.90	315.50	316
Air Liquide	880	861	878	862
Alcatel Alsth	748	726	738	729
Axa-UAP	468.40	457	463	459.50
Bancaire	1010	974	1005	974
BIC	410	390	405	390
BNP	316.80	303	315	308.10
Canal Plus	1032	1019	1021	1017
Carrefour	2865	2795	2857	2802
Casino	327	323.50	323.50	329.80
CCF	409.90	395.50	409.90	403.70
Cetelem	858	826	854	828
Christian Dior	559	536	559	550
Credit Agricole	1229	1221	1221	1226.10
Danone	1092	1055	1088	1079
Dexia Fran	711	685	707	693
Elf-Aquitaine	679	650	669	658
Eridania BS	959	911	956	914
Eurodisney	7.10	6.85	7	7.10
Eurotunnel	6.40	4.65	6.20	5.45
France Telecom	209.40	204.20	208.80	206.50
Gen. Eaux	815	792	804	794
Havas	427	416.20	424.90	418
Imetal	730	708	730	720
Lafarge	370	355	366.50	362.60
Legrand	1120	1100	1119	1101
L'Oreal	2127	2079	2110	2081
LVMH	990	895	930	894
Michelin B	284	276.50	280	277
Paribas A	508	484.50	504	489
Pernod Ricard	Susp.	Susp.	Susp.	339
Peugeot Cit	739	702	725	702
Pinault-Print	3070	2985	3067	2982
Promodes	2380	2315	2364	2315
Renault	169.50	164	169.50	165.10
Rexel	1768	1730	1747	1750
Rh-Poulenc A	268	253.50	259.50	259.90
Sanofi	626	616	620	617
Schneider	304	299	300	301.50
SEB	805	777	805	790
SGS Thomson	360	333.20	354.50	316.50
Ste Generale	833	818	823	826
Sodexho	3100	2980	3022	3020
St Gobain	827	810	822	810
Suez (Cie)	15.70	15.70	15.70	15.80
Suez Lyon Eaux	651	634	647	640
Synthelabo	752	735	745	742
Thomson CSF	185.80	176.50	185.20	182
Total B	630	607	625	612
Usinor	81.50	78.50	80.90	81.60
Valeo	385	375.20	381.10	377.60

São Paulo
Bovespa index: 9495.15
Previous: 9139.01

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bradesco Pfd	9.50	9.10	9.50	9.40
Brahma Pfd	710.00	710.00	710.00	710.00
Cemig Pfd	45.00	43.00	44.50	43.50
CESP Pfd	58.50	53.00	55.20	57.20
Copel	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Eletrobras	54.00	52.50	54.00	53.00
Itaubanco Pfd	540.00	538.00	540.00	530.00
Light Servicos	400.00	390.00	400.00	395.00
Lightpar	262.00	247.00	262.00	250.02
Petrobras Pfd	233.00	220.00	232.00	224.00
Paulista Luz	142.99	140.99	142.00	138.50
Sid Nacional	30.50	28.80	30.50	30.00
Souza Cruz	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	8.50
Telebras Pfd	120.40	114.50	120.20	113.50
Telemig	114.50	111.90	114.50	112.00
Telerj	100.00	95.50	98.50	99.10
Telesp Pfd	281.00	267.00	281.00	267.01
Unibanco	42.50	40.010	42.50	41.00
Usiminas Pfd	5.50	5.35	5.45	5.43
CVRD Pfd	19.80	19.01	19.80	19.30

Seoul
Composite index: 396.04
Previous: 408.19

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Dacom	77500	65400	73800	66500
Daewoo Heavy	5480	4900	5100	5290
Hyundai Eng.	12800	10700	12800	11600
Kia Motors	6500	6200	6200	6790
Korea El Pwr	16200	14600	15800	15100
Korea Exch Bk	4350	3670	3950	3960
LG Semicon	17800	16100	16900	16900
Pohang Iron St	50600	47000	47000	48600
Samsung Display	34500	30300	31000	32900
Samsung Elec	43900	40100	41400	41700
Shinhan Bank	7800	6900	7150	7470
SK Telecom	453500	403000	420000	437000

Singapore
Straits Times: 1541.45
Previous: 1572.61

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Pac Brew	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.28
Cerebos Pac	4.26	4.26	4.26	4.38
City Devts	8.05	7.70	7.75	8.20
Cycle Carriage	7.05	7	7	7
Dairy Farm Int*	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93
DBS foreign	14.80	14.10	14.50	14.60
DBS Land	2.67	2.57	2.59	2.71
Fraser & Neave	7.20	6.95	7.15	7.15
HK Land*	1.72	1.68	1.70	1.76
Jard Matheson*	4.70	4.40	4.62	4.62
Jard Strategic*	2.34	2.22	2.30	2.22
Keppel A	5.15	4.98	5	5.05
Keppel Bank	2.70	2.66	2.70	2.69
Keppel Fels	4.32	4.26	4.32	4.26
Keppel Land	2.75	2.57	2.75	2.60
OCBC foreign	9.80	9.40	9.60	9.70
OS Union Bk F	6.55	6.10	6.45	6.45
Parkway Hdgs	3.82	3.78	3.82	3.82
Sembawang	4.50	4.16	4.16	4.50
Sing Air foreign	11.10	10.10	10.80	11.10
Sing Land	4	3.88	3.90	4
Sing Press F	22.70	21.50	21.90	22.60
Sing Tech Ind	1.68	1.66	1.66	1.72
Sing Telecomm	3.14	3	3.12	3.12
Tat Lee Bank	2.50	2.48	2.50	2.50
Utd Industrial	0.66	0.64	0.64	0.65
Utd OSea Bk F	9.85	9.50	9.50	9.85
Wing Tai Hdgs	2	1.93	1.96	2

*: in U.S. dollars.

Stockholm
SX 16 index: 3094.86
Previous: 3080.08

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA B	99.50	98	98.50	99
ABB A	89.50	87.50	89	89
AssiDoman	189	183	188.50	188
Astra A	133.50	130	131	132.50
Atlas Copco A	226	217	217.50	221
Autoliv	270	250	251	255
Electrolux B	555	530	536	549
Ericsson B	283	274.50	280	274
Forenings Spar	182	176.50	177	178.50
Hennes B	336	326	335	330
Incentive A	697	670	697	693
Investor B	375	365	369	370
MoDo B	209	205	207.50	206
Pharm/Upjohn	282.50	278	281.50	273
Sandvik B	222	218	219	219.50
Scania B	175	170	171	173.50
SCA B	169	159	169	170
S-E Banken A	97	94.50	96	94
Skandia Fors	393	380	380	390
Skanska B	322.50	318	320.50	320
SKF B	159	154	158	157
Stora A	97.50	95.50	97	96.50
Sv Handels A	280	275.50	275.50	277
Volvo B	217	207	215	208

Sydney
All Ordinaries: 2582.40
Previous: 2528.10

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	6.60	6.50	6.57	6.60
ANZ Bkg	9.75	9.45	9.50	9.75
BHP	13.75	13.48	13.74	13.66
Boral	3.70	3.55	3.69	3.68
Brambles Ind.	29.40	29.10	29.19	29.50
CBA	17.35	17.20	17.27	17.33
CC Amatil	11.20	11	11	11.20
Coles Myer	7.41	7.25	7.30	7.46
Comalco	6.60	6.30	6.30	6.60
CSR	5.09	5.02	5.08	5.12
Fosters Brew	2.90	2.83	2.86	2.88
Goodman Fld	2.45	2.32	2.32	2.43
ICI Australia	10.56	10.31	10.40	10.60
Lend Lease	29.43	28.40	28.70	29.50
MIM Hdgs	0.97	0.92	0.94	0.98
Nat Aust Bank	20.32	20.14	20.22	20.35
Nat Mutual Hdg	2.66	2.52	2.60	2.67
News Corp	8.05	7.90	7.96	8.03
Pacific Dunlop	3.13	3.03	3.03	3.13
Pioneer Intl	4.01	3.90	3.95	3.90
Pub Broadcast	6.70	6.57	6.57	6.70
Rio Tinto	16.95	16.70	16.80	17.01
St George Bank	8.69	8.46	8.58	8.70
WMC	5.03	4.92	4.92	4.96
Westpac Bking	9.47	9.37	9.40	9.40
Woodside Pet	10.67	10.40	10.62	10.65
Woolworths	4.81	4.71	4.80	4.80

Taipei
Stock Market index: 8104.03
Previous: 8154.27

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cathay Life Ins	149.50	146	146	146
Chang Hwa Bk	100	96	98.50	98
Chiao Tung Bk	70	68	69	68
China Develpmt	92	90.50	90.50	90
China Steel	24.60	24.10	24.20	24.10
First Bank	98	94.50	95.50	96
Formosa Plastic	63.50	61.50	62	62.50
Hua Nan Bk	100.50	97	98	98
Intl Comm Bk	62	59.50	60	59.50
Nan Ya Plastics	57	55.50	56	56
Shin Kong Life	108	104.50	105	105
Taiwan Semi	113	109	109	108.50
Tatung	36.40	35.80	35.80	36
Utd Micro Elec	65	62.50	63	62.50
Utd World Chin	61.50	59.50	61	61

Tokyo
Nikkei 225: 14799.40
Previous: 15314.89

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	1240	1140	1200	1120
All Nippon Air	511	491	495	513
Amway	2310	2200	2250	2260
Asahi Bank	500	475	499	511
Asahi Chem	450	400	413	450
Asahi Glass	589	563	580	577
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	1800	1670	1720	1800
Bk Yokohama	299	274	274	300
Bridgestone	2840	2760	2790	2800
Canon	3000	2880	2960	3000
Chubu Elec	2010	1980	1990	2000
Chugoku Elec	1890	1860	1870	1870
Dai Nipp Print	2430	2350	2380	2430
Daiei	578	532	550	579
Dai-Ichi Kang	871	782	792	878
Daiwa Bank	299	220	221	295
Daiwa House	628	628	628	728
Daiwa Sec	435	406	420	449
DDI	3050a	2860a	3010a	2910a
Denso	2460	2230	2270	2450
East Japan Ry	5530a	5400a	5430a	5390a
Eisai	1900	1860	1880	1890
Fanuc	4760	4640	4650	4850
Fuji Bank	492	440	458	525
Fuji Photo	4950	4680	4780	5010
Fujitsu	1370	1340	1340	1380
Hachijuni Bk	1000	980	990	1010
Hitachi	928	903	909	930
Honda Motor	4650	4500	4590	4630
IBJ	1020	885	917	1040
IHI	235	193	203	235
Itochu	207	182	198	220
Ito-Yokado	6600	6350	6450	6550
JAL	349	335	348	345
Japan Tobacco	9020a	8760a	9020a	8660a
Jusco	1790	1670	1730	1790
Kajima	335	310	328	320
Kansai Elec	2170	2140	2160	2160
Kao	1870	1810	1840	1880
Kawasaki Hvy	220	190	199	225
Kawa Steel	170	155	165	164
Kinki Nipp Ry	675	667	667	671
Kirin Brewery	989	960	971	949
Kobe Steel	99	91	96	98
Komatsu	647	622	640	659
Kubota	364	311	324	377
Kyocera	5960	5710	5800	5900
Kyushu Elec	1880	1860	1870	1870
LTCB	204	155	178	210
Marubeni	206	177	193	216
Marui	1960	1870	1910	1980
Matsu Comm	3430	3160	3290	3350
Matsu Elec Ind	1850	1800	1820	1830
Matsu Elec Wk	1040	1010	1020	1030
Mitsubishi	990	972	982	990
Mitsubishi Ch	185	155	165	180
Mitsubishi El	325	297	299	315
Mitsubishi Est	1520	1420	1440	1520
Mitsubishi Hvy	525	504	512	510
Mitsubishi Mat	430	417	422	425
Mitsubishi Tr	1380	1260	1330	1420
Mitsui	850	802	819	850
Mitsui Fudosn	1290	1200	1240	1280
Mitsui Trust	226	195	215	222
Murata Mfg	3440	3300	3340	3340
NEC	1350	1310	1310	1350
Nikon	1370	1300	1330	1390
Nikko Sec	356	310	336	380
Nintendo	12300	11700	12300	11800
Nipp Express	608	583	586	610
Nippon Oil	371	347	350	371
Nippon Steel	188	183	184	188
Nissan Motor	512	491	503	517
NKK	101	95	95	102
Nomura Sec	1690	1610	1660	1770
NTT	1090b	1070b	1080b	1090b
NTT Data	6830b	6700b	6830b	6700b
Oji Paper	502	475	480	495
Osaka Gas	285	274	277	280
Ricoh	1620	1540	1610	1600
Rohm	13000	12800	13000	12900
Sakura Bk	373	343	360	418
Sankyo	3000	2920	2950	2950
Sanwa Bank	1350	1200	1230	1400
Sanyo Elec	330	290	305	325
Secom	8200	7880	8140	8450
Seibu Rwy	5550	5100	5340	5470
Sekisui Chem	727	700	700	720
Sekisui House	859	806	820	845
Seven-Eleven	9270	8850	9000	9170
Sharp	820	792	815	820
Shikoku El Pwr	1880	1850	1870	1860
Shimizu	310	295	300	309
Shin-etsu Ch	2630	2570	2580	2640
Shiseido	1840	1670	1750	1900
Shizuoka Bk	1310	1280	1300	1280
Softbank	2620	2450	2520	2480
Sony	11000	10800	10900	10900
Sumitomo	754	738	748	750
Sumitomo Bk	1430	1310	1400	1440
Sumit Chem	296	280	284	290
Sumitomo Elec	1740	1690	1700	1730
Sumit Metal	200	170	170	199
Sumit Trust	685	600	639	689
Taisho Pharm	3250	3110	3180	3300
Takeda Chem	3680	3480	3520	3640
TDK	9930	9460	9790	9940
Tohoku El Pwr	1960	1910	1930	1960
Tokai Bank	603	530	570	618
Tokio Marine	1350	1280	1320	1360
Tokyo El Pwr	2370	2320	2350	2360
Tokyo Electron	4500	4350	4440	4400
Tokyo Gas	299	285	296	300
Tokyu Corp.	494	461	485	495
Tonen	845	800	807	825
Toppan Print	1610	1560	1590	1600
Toray Ind	534	510	518	532
Toshiba	523	500	504	521
Tostem	1190	1110	1110	1170
Toyo Trust	780	750	763	780
Toyota Motor	3610	3410	3500	3620
Yamanouchi	2900	2770	2770	2930

a: x 100; b: x 1,000

Toronto
TSE Industrials: 6575.23
Previous: 6535.34

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Cons.	18.40	18¼	18.35	18.15
Alberta Energy	28	27.15	28	27.15
Alcan Alum	39.10	38.60	38.65	38.80
Anderson Expl	14¼	13.90	13.90	14.35
Bk Montreal	62¾	61.80	62¼	61.90
Bk Nova Scotia	66	64.60	65¼	64.65
Barrick Gold	26.10	25.65	25.90	25.45
BCE	47.30	46.10	47.20	45¼
BC Telecomm	43.30	43	43¼	43¼
Biochem Pharm	34.85	34.20	34.25	34.40
Bombardier B	30.10	29¼	29.70	29.65
Cameco	43¼	41.55	43¼	42
CIBC	44¼	44.20	44.35	44½
Cdn Natl Rail	67¾	67.20	67.35	67.30
Cdn Nat Res	31.30	30.55	31.20	30¼
Cdn Occid Pet	32.85	31.30	31.95	31.40
Cdn Pacific	37.15	36.30	36.90	36½
Cominco	21	20.40	20.60	20.80
Dofasco	22.65	22.20	22.65	22¼
Domtar	10.15	10	10	10.10
Donohue A	23.40	23¼	23.40	23.30
Du Pont Cda A	35½	35	35½	35
EdperBrascan	25.90	25.40	25.45	25.85
EuroNev Mng	19½	17.90	19.45	17.90
Fairfax Finl	318	315	317	318
Falconbridge	18.20	17.90	17.90	18
Fletcher Chall A	18.80	18½	18¼	18.60
Franco Nevada	29	28¼	28.40	27½
Gulf Cda Res	9.90	9.45	9½	9.90
Imperial Oil	91½	88	91½	89.10
Inco	25	24.70	24¾	24.90
IPL Energy	63.40	62.80	63.50	63.20
Laidlaw B	18.80	18.40	18.70	18½
Loewen Group	33¼	32.80	33	33.45
Macmill Bldl	15.20	14¾	14.95	14.80
Magna Intl A	92	90.35	90.35	92.20
Methanex	11.65	11.30	11.45	11.65
Moore	20.10	19.30	19.70	20.05
Newbridge Net	53	51.10	51.20	51
Noranda Inc	25.20	24¾	24.85	24.95
Norcen Energy	16	15½	15.55	16
Nthern Telecom	124½	122¾	124.15	122¾
Nova	13½	13.35	13.45	13.40
Onex	28½	27¾	28.45	28¼
Pancdn Petlm	22.70	21	21½	22.10
Petro Cda	24¼	25.30	26.20	25.30
Placer Dome	17.45	17.15	17.30	17
Poco Petlm	12½	12.10	12.35	12.20
Potash Sask	116	115.30	116	115.05
Renaissance	29¼	28¾	29.10	28.60
Rio Algom	24¼	23¾	23¾	24¼
Rogers Cantel B	13½	13	13½	13.30
Seagram Co	44	43¾	43¾	43.60
Shell Cda A	26	25½	25.95	25.55
Suncor	49.80	49.05	49.40	50¼
Talisman Eny	43	42¼	42.40	42.20
Teck B	20.30	20.10	20¼	20
Teleglobe	45.70	45.35	45.35	46.05
Telus	32.15	31.55	31.80	32
Thomson	37½	37	37¼	37.45
TorDom Bank	53¾	53	53¼	53.40
Transalta	21.90	21½	21.90	21.40
TransCda Pipe	31.40	31.15	31.20	31.35
Trimark Finl	64½	63.60	63.80	64½
Trizec Hahn	33	32.80	32.85	33.10
TVX Gold	4.20	3.95	4⅛	3.94
Westcoast Eny	33.35	33.10	33.15	33.20
Weston	123½	122	122	122

Vienna
ATX Index: 1247.96
Previous: 1249.97

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Boehler-Uddeh	722.50	706	710	720
Creditanst Pfd	688	679	688	691
EA-Generali	3290	3155	3290	3250
EVN	1585	1559	1579.90	1575
Flughafen Wien	502	498	500	503
OMV	1728.50	1682	1705	1703
Oest Elektriz	1142	1026	1142	1034
VA Stahl	459	447	453	465
VA Tech	1840	1782	1820	1845
Wienerberg Bau	2402	2340	2402	2391

Wellington
NZSE-40 Index: 2380.62
Previous: 2390.95

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zeald B	3.40	3.35	3.35	3.40
Brierly Invt	1.18	1.17	1.18	1.18
Carter Holt ord	2.52	2.40	2.52	2.45
Fletch Ch Bldg	3.75	3.64	3.70	3.80
Fletch Ch Eny	6.06	5.91	5.98	6.00
Fletch Ch Forst	1.39	1.36	1.39	1.38
Fletch Ch Paper	2.08	2.02	2.06	2.07
Lion Nathan	3.90	3.89	3.90	3.89
Telecom NZ	8.72	8.50	8.70	8.70
Wilson Horton	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	10.20

Zurich
SPI Index: 3770.40
Previous: 3738.34

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABB B	1797	1743	1771	1759
Adecco B	382	371.50	380	382
Alusuisse R	1378	1355	1369	1367
Ares-Serono B	2545	2440	2495	2380
Atel R	800	790	800	800
Baer Hdg B	2645	2630	2645	2650
Baloise Hdg R	2825	2751	2776	2810
BK Vision	1470	1440	1470	1446
Ciba Spec Chem	169.50	167.25	167.50	166
Clariant R	1169	1158	1167	1162
Crd Suisse Gp R	225.75	220.25	225.50	220.25
Elektrowatt B	552	549	550	552
Ems-Chemie	7285	7130	7275	7200
ESEC Hdg	3900	3740	3900	3825
Holderbank B	1173	1149	1173	1155
Liechtenst LB B	565	562	562	562
Nestle R	2143	2110	2137	2130
Novartis R	2237	2206	2237	2218
Oerlikon Buehr R	202.50	198.50	198.50	200
Pargesa Hld B	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	1780
PharmVisn B	875	867	875	874
Richemont A	1570	1555	1570	1590
Pirelli PC	302	290	299	307
Roche Hdg PC	13650	13500	13625	13530
SBC R	456	445.50	456	447.50
Schindler PC	1545	1509	1512	1520
SGS B	2680	2625	2655	2675
SMH B	785	772	780	780
Sulzer R	915	897	900	903
Swiss Reins R	2585	2528	2575	2570
SAir Group R	1990	1915	1962	1897
UBS B	2127	2082	2127	2097
Winterthur R	1730	1700	1730	1700
Zurich Assur R	672	652	670	651

The Trib Index

Prices as of 3:00 P.M. New York time

Jan. 1, 1992 = 100	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change
World Index	168.21	+0.25	+0.15	+12.78
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	91.99	−3.40	−3.56	−25.47
Europe	188.88	+0.89	+0.47	+17.17
N. America	213.45	+2.27	+1.07	+31.78
S. America	142.90	+2.60	+1.85	+24.88
Industrial Indexes				
Capital goods	204.30	+1.91	+0.94	+19.53
Consumer goods	204.56	+0.78	+0.38	+26.72
Energy	190.50	+0.85	+0.45	+11.59
Finance	120.26	−1.35	−1.11	+3.26
Miscellaneous	143.54	−0.33	−0.23	−11.26
Raw Materials	159.20	+0.89	+0.56	−9.23
Service	170.10	+1.25	+0.74	+23.87
Utilities	163.90	+0.32	+0.20	+14.25

The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar value of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries. For more information, a free booklet is available by writing to The Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France. *Compiled by Bloomberg News.*

هكذا من الأصل

NASDAQ

Monday's 4 P.M.

The 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

NYSE

Monday's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

WORLD ROUNDUP

Sprint Into Sydney

SAILING EF Language overhauled Swedish Match just outside Sydney on Tuesday to win the third leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

EF Language sprinted into Sydney Harbor doing 14 knots and reached the finish line, close to the Sydney Opera House, five minutes ahead.

The next five other yachts finished within 35 minutes of one another. Swedish Match was 53 seconds ahead of the third-place Chessie Racing.

Paul Cayard, the EF Language skipper, and his crew took 9 days 9 hours 9 minutes 20 seconds to complete the 2,250-mile leg from Fremantle and take the overall lead from Innovation Kvaerner, which finished fifth in the leg. *(Reuters)*

Holyfield to Fight Lewis

BOXING Lennox Lewis, the WBC World Champion, and Evander Holyfield, the WBA and IBF world champion, agreed Monday to a £33 million ($50 million dollar) unification fight in Las Vegas on April 25. *(Reuters, AFP)*

India Beats Sri Lanka

CRICKET Sachin Tendulkar hit 82 not out Monday in Guwahati, India, to propel India to a seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the first of three one-day matches. Robin Singh had taken five wickets to restrict Sri Lanka to 172 for nine in its 45 overs. *(Reuters)*

Italy Slalom Slope Melts

SKIING A men's World Cup slalom in Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy, was called off Monday because rising overnight temperatures ruined the piste. *(Reuters)*

Red Cards for Linesmen

SOCCER Two Israeli linesmen came to blows in a taxi and had to be separated by a referee, the Ha'aretz newspaper reported Monday.

Shai Ossidon, who has just been awarded an international badge, told Reuven Gino: "I am going to officiate in Europe and will do duty-free shopping in London while you will have to make do with Asbdod and Ashkelon," two southern Israeli towns.

Gino apparently failed to see anything funny in the statement. Referee Eyal Tzur and the driver had to break up the fight. *(Reuters)*

Knievel Finds Golf Risky

Evel Knievel, 59, a retired daredevil, has had a hip replacement operation after a fall on a Florida golf course three weeks ago.

Knievel broke at least 35 bones and underwent surgery 14 times in his stunt career.

"The doctors said they had never seen a worse hip," he said. *(AP)*

Vasco Wins in Brazil With Two 0-0 Games

Draw Also Gives River Plate Argentine Crown

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Vasco da Gama won the Brazilian championship for the third time in an instantly forgettable final against Palmeiras in which both legs ended in goalless draws.

Vasco won the title because it had the better overall record. It played with the rulebook in one hand as it adopted a defensive formation even though it was playing at home in the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro in front of 95,000 fans.

SOUTH AMERICAN SOCCER

The double stalemate was an appropriate end to a competition that has lacked a credibility since it started in August. The Brazilian Football Confederation reinstated Fluminense and Bragantino, the two clubs relegated last year. Atletico Paranaenese was also allowed to take part even though it had been suspended following a match-fixing scandal in April.

There was confusion before Sunday's match. Edmundo, the Vasco striker, escaped suspension for the second leg thanks to a loophole in the rules.

Edmundo had picked up his third yellow card of the competition in the first leg in Sao Paolo. Three yellow cards carry an automatic suspension, but Edmundo was sent off later in the game. A red card does not carry an automatic ban.

On Saturday, a disciplinary tribunal decided that he could play, so Edmundo benefited from being sent off.

On Sunday, Vasco defended. The tactic worked in the first half, but after the break Palmeiras created a string of chances. Carlos Germano, the Vasco goalkeeper, made two top-class saves but was also booked for time-wasting, which summed up his team's approach.

Edmundo, who has scored a record 29 goals in the competition but who has also been sent off seven times this year, hit the crossbar with a free kick and had a shot cleared off the line.

ARGENTINA River Plate gained a 1-1 draw against Argentinas Juniors on Sunday to win the Argentine league by one point. It was River's record third consecutive league title and its second trophy in a week. It beat Brazil's Sao Paulo on Wednesday to win South America's Super Cup.

River finished the season one point ahead of its arch-rival, Boca Juniors, which beat Union by 4-0 on Sunday. If River had lost, it would have had to play off against Boca.

Marcelo Salas, River's Chilean striker, broke the deadlock after 41 minutes with a powerful header from a cross by Sergio Berti.

It was Salas's 10th goal in 16 games. Salas has attracted attention from top European clubs. He recently rejected a move to Manchester United, the English champion. Now he is reported to be on his way to Italian club Parma in a multi-million-dollar move.

River was made to suffer Sunday by a determined Argentinos team, which hit the post before equalizing on 76 minutes with a goal by Roberto Saavedra.

CHILE Colo Colo of Santiago clinched the strike-hit Chilean championship while sitting at home on Saturday when second-placed Universidad Catolica could only draw, 1-1, with Cobreloa.

On Sunday, Colo Colo celebrated by thrashing provincial side Temuco, 4-0.

The championship was twice halted as players went on strike to protest about what they said were dismal working conditions.

COLOMBIA America of Cali players lost their shirts after clinching the Colombian league title Sunday. Fans invaded the field after their team beat Bucaramanga, 2-0, in the second-leg of the playoff final and stripped the players nearly naked.

Hundreds of supporters broke through a police cordon when the final whistle went and stripped the players of their uniforms and jewelry.

Undeterred, the team completed a lap of honor, using flags and anything else with the team's red colors to cover themselves.

America beat Bucaramanga in the second leg of the final before a 35,000 crowd in Cali to win, 3-0, on aggregate. Bucaramanga had never finished above third in the competition.

Two Bucaramanga players received red cards, and it finished with nine men. *(AP, Reuters)*

Paulo Whitaker/Reuters

The Palmeiras defender Junior, left, and the Vasco da Gama striker Evair battling in Brazil's championship.

Klinsmann to Rejoin Spurs on Loan

Reuters

LONDON — The German striker Jurgen Klinsmann is returning to the English Premier League team Tottenham Hotspur on loan for the rest of the season, the club said Monday.

Tottenham also appointed one of its former managers, David Pleat, to be the team's director on Monday. Pleat led the team to the Football Association Cup final and third place in the league in May 1987, before resigning the following October.

Pleat was fired as manager of Sheffield Wednesday last month. For Tottenham he will be responsible for scouting and contracts, the team said.

Klinsmann, 33, currently plays for Sampdoria in Italy's Serie A. He played for Tottenham, a north London club, for one season, scoring 29 goals and winning the Footballer of the Year award.

During that season Ossie Ardiles, an attack-minded coach, was fired and replaced by Gerry Francis, a more cautious manager. In May 1995, Klinsmann left for Bayern Munich.

Alan Sugar, the team's chairman, was deeply upset, accusing Klinsmann of breaking his contract. Sugar went on television with Klinsmann's team shirt, which he crumpled up and tossed away, announcing that he would not wash his car with it.

Klinsmann replied by saying that Sugar would not make sufficient funds available for the Tottenham to contend for the league title.

Klinsmann was popular with fans during his brief spell in London. His subsequent seasons at Bayern and Sampdoria proved far less happy.

Tottenham, which is third from the bottom in the Premier League, recently replaced Francis with Christian Gross. Klinsmann is said to have recommended Gross, the former coach of Grasshoppers Zurich, to Sugar.

Klinsmann is represented by Andy Gross, a Swiss lawyer who is not related to Christian Gross but was reportedly involved in the coach's negotiations with Tottenham.

Tottenham's three leading strikers — Chris Armstrong, Les Ferdinand and Steffen Iversen — all have injury problems.

Spanish Referees Cry Foul Anew

Reuters

MADRID — Spanish referees were under attack again Monday, two weeks after going on strike in protest at abuse from players and club officials.

Jesus Gil, the president of Atletico Madrid, and Lorenzo Sanz, president of Real Madrid, both criticized Miguel Perez Lasa, the referee of a match Sunday, in which Atletico lost by 3-1 to Barcelona, the league's leader.

"I think there was an agreement for them to score goals in the second half," Gil said. "The referee must have been drunk."

Sanz, whose team is second to Barcelona, said, "The referee demonstrated that he's got faults of ability and personality."

A linesman suffered a concussion at the Second Division match between Atletico Madrid's B team and Albacete when a bottle of water thrown from the crowd hit him on the head.

The Fourth Division match between Pegoso and Santa Ana was held up for 15 minutes after the crowd pelted a linesman with stones after the sending-off of a home player.

A spectator leaped from the crowd at the Puerta Bonita-Moscado Third Division match and punched the referee in the stomach, then escaped without being arrested.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	17	8	.680	—
Orlando	16	10	.615	1½
New York	15	11	.577	2½
New Jersey	13	11	.542	3½
Boston	12	12	.500	4½
Washington	13	14	.481	5
Philadelphia	6	18	.250	10½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Atlanta	19	7	.731	—
Indiana	17	8	.680	1½
Chicago	16	9	.640	2½
Cleveland	16	9	.640	2½
Charlotte	15	9	.625	3
Milwaukee	12	13	.480	6½
Detroit	12	15	.444	7½
Toronto	3	22	.115	16
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
MIDWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	14	8	.636	—
San Antonio	15	10	.600	½
Utah	15	10	.600	½
Minnesota	11	13	.458	4
Vancouver	10	17	.370	6½
Dallas	5	20	.200	10½
Denver	2	22	.083	13
PACIFIC DIVISION				
Seattle	21	5	.808	—
L.A. Lakers	20	6	.769	1
Phoenix	15	8	.652	4½
Portland	14	10	.583	6
Sacramento	9	17	.346	12
Golden State	5	18	.217	14½
L.A. Clippers	5	22	.185	16½

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Utah 22 22 30 26—101
Cleveland 14 29 30 31—106
U: Malone 8-17 8-10 24, Keefe 7-14 2-4 16; C: Kemp 7-13 10-14 24, D.Anderson 3-6 16-16 23, Rebounds—Utah 52 (Malone 13), Cleveland 46 (Kemp 11). Assists—Utah 28 (Stockton, Homacek 6), Cleveland 21 (Knight 7).

L.A. Clippers 20 26 18 13— 77
Boston 19 27 28 23— 99
L.A.: Rd.Rogers 8-13 3-3 20, Wright 4-11 6-8 14; B: Walker 8-25 6-6 23, Barros 7-13 2-2 17. Rebounds—Los Angeles 57 (Wright 19), Boston 53 (Walker 15). Assists—Los Angeles 20 (Pfeifkowski 5), Boston 26 (Walker 5).

Portland 25 18 25 18— 86
Vancouver 14 22 26 26—88
P: Rider 7-21 3-3 19, Sabonis 5-11 6-8 18; V: Abdur-Rahim 9-20 9-15 28, Edwards 5-7 4-6 15. Rebounds—Portland 51 (Grant 9), Vancouver 55 (Abdur-Rahim 14). Assists—Portland 21 (Sabonis 6), Vancouver 18 (Daniels 8).

Major College Scores

Duke 106, Mercer 44
Iowa 94, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 56
A-Selanne 27 (Kariya, Dalgneault) 3, S.J., MacLean 4 (Houlder, Friesen) (pp). Second Period:S.J.-MacLean 5 (Houlder, Friesen) 5, A-Selanne 28 (Kariya, Ricchini) 6, S.J., Ragnarsson 1 (Friesen, Ricci) (pp). Third Period: None. Shots on goal: S.J.- 12-14-4—30; A-10-7-8—25. Goalies: S.J.-Vernon. A-Hebert.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	23	10	1	47	106	67
Philadelphia	20	9	7	47	101	78
Washington	16	13	7	39	103	98
N.Y. Islanders	15	15	5	35	97	92
N.Y. Rangers	10	16	12	32	96	105
Florida	12	19	5	29	88	108
Tampa Bay	7	21	6	20	62	105
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
Pittsburgh	18	11	8	44	100	88
Montreal	19	14	4	42	107	90
Boston	16	14	6	38	91	92
Ottawa	15	17	4	34	88	86
Carolina	13	18	5	31	92	100
Buffalo	12	16	6	30	83	93
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	24	9	4	52	118	77
Detroit	20	9	7	47	118	91
St. Louis	21	12	4	46	109	86
Phoenix	14	16	6	34	97	102
Toronto	12	17	5	29	78	93
Chicago	11	17	7	29	77	86
PACIFIC DIVISION						
Colorado	18	8	11	47	110	93
Los Angeles	14	14	6	34	101	97
San Jose	14	18	4	32	91	100
Anaheim	12	18	6	30	82	111
Edmonton	11	17	8	30	83	103
Vancouver	11	20	5	27	103	122
Calgary	10	20	7	27	93	111

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Buffalo 1 1 0—2
N.Y. Rangers 0 0 0—0
First Period: B-Satan 15 (Holzinger, Woolley) (pp). Second Period: B-Peca 7 (Ward, Dawe) Third Period: None. Shots on goal: B- 10-7-6—23. New York 6-16-11—33. Goalies: B-Hasek. New York, Richter.

San Jose 2 2 0—4
Anaheim 1 1 0—2
First Period: S.J.-Craven 8 (Iafrate) (sh). 2.

FOOTBALL

NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-New England	9	6	0	.600	355	277
y-Miami	9	6	0	.600	327	313
N.Y. Jets	9	7	0	.563	348	287
Buffalo	6	10	0	.375	255	367
Indianapolis	3	13	0	.188	313	401
CENTRAL						
x-Pittsburgh	11	5	0	.688	372	307
y-Jacksonville	11	5	0	.688	394	318
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	333	310
Cincinnati	7	9	0	.438	355	405
Baltimore	6	9	1	.406	326	345
WEST						
x-Kansas City	13	3	0	.813	375	232
y-Denver	12	4	0	.750	472	287
Seattle	8	8	0	.500	345	362
Oakland	4	12	0	.250	324	419
San Diego	4	12	0	.250	266	425
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
EAST	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-N.Y. Giants	10	5	1	.656	307	265
Washington	8	7	1	.531	327	289
Philadelphia	6	9	1	.406	317	372
Dallas	6	10	0	.375	304	314
Arizona	4	12	0	.250	283	379
CENTRAL						
x-Green Bay	13	3	0	.813	422	282
y-Tampa Bay	10	6	0	.625	299	263
y-Detroit	9	7	0	.563	379	306
y-Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	354	359
Chicago	4	12	0	.250	263	421
WEST						
x-San Francisco	13	3	0	.813	375	265
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	245	314
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	320	361
New Orleans	6	10	0	.375	237	327
St. Louis	5	11	0	.313	299	359

x-won division title
y-clinched playoff berth

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Cincinnati 16, Baltimore 14
Tampa Bay 31, Chicago 15
Minnesota 39, Indianapolis 28
Kansas City 25, New Orleans 13
New York Giants 20, Dallas 7
Washington 35, Philadelphia 32
Tennessee 16, Pittsburgh 6
Arizona 29, Atlanta 26
Jacksonville 20, Oakland 9
Detroit 13, New York Jets 10
Denver 38, San Diego 3
Seattle 36, San Francisco 9

CRICKET

INDIA VS. SRI LANKA
1ST OF 3 ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS
MONDAY in GUWAHATI
Sri Lanka: 172-9 in 45 overs
India: 173-3 in 37.5 overs
India won by seven wickets.

AUSTRALIA A VS. SOUTH AFRICA
four-day match
MONDAY in BRISBANE
South Africa: 458-9 and 220-7
Australia A: 330 and 122-1
Match ended in a draw.

SOCCER

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION
Real Madrid 2, Espanyol 1
Tenerife 0, Real Sociedad 0
STANDINGS: Barcelona 40 points; Real Madrid 39; Real Sociedad 32; Celta Vigo 31; Athletic Bilbao 31; Atletico Madrid 30; Espanyol 29; Real Betis 26; Mallorca, Real Zaragoza 24; Racing Santander, Oviedo 23; Valencia 21; Valladolid 20; Salamanca, Merida 17; Deportivo Coruna, Compostela 16; Tenerife 15; Sporting Gijon 3.

ITALIAN FIRST DIVISION
AC Milan 0, Bologna 0
STANDINGS: Inter Milan 30 points; Juventus 29; Udinese 26; Parma 25; AS Roma 23; Lazio 21; Fiorentina, AC Milan 20; Sampdoria 19; Vicenza 18; Brescia 14; Empoli 13; Bologna, Piacenza, Bari 12; Atalanta 11; Lecce 10; Napoli 5.

PARAGUAYAN CHAMPIONSHIP
FINAL, RETURN LEG
Olimpia 1, Cerro Porteno 1
Olimpia won 2-1 on aggregate.
Both qualified for next Libertadores Cup.

BRAZILIAN CHAMPIONSHIP
FINAL, RETURN LEG
Vasco da Gama 0, Palmeiras 0
Aggregate score: 0-0. Vasco da Gama won on having the better overall record in competition.

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SPORTS

Spurs on Loan

Putting Football Into Perspective

Neck Injury Casts a Pall Over Lions' Special Day

By T. J. Simers
Los Angeles Times Service

PONTIAC, Michigan — It was the most electrifying afternoon, the most horrifying, and the game went on with conflicted emotions, tears and joy, amid the events that would mark the day as one of the most memorable in the Detroit Lions' history.

Barry Sanders rallied his team in the fourth quarter, blowing past the 2,000-yard mark for the season, and the Lions defeated the New York Jets, 13-10, in a do-or-die game to advance to the playoffs.

But how those words rang hollow — do-or-die — after many players on both teams stood and kneeled in prayer around Reggie Brown, a Detroit linebacker, while team doctors performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on their fallen teammate, who had lost consciousness.

"If you are a praying person, I would hope you would pray hard, very hard," said Ross.

Brown, 23, who did not move or breathe on his own for several minutes after tackling a Jets' running back, Adrian Murrell, early in the fourth quarter, was placed in an ambulance and taken to a nearby hospital.

[Brown had neck surgery on Monday, the Associated Press reported from Detroit. Dr. Robert Collon, a team doctor, said the operation was to fuse the first and second vertebrae of Brown's neck.]

["At this point, it is hard to say how serious and how permanent his injury is," Collon said. "The first 72 hours after such an injury are important." Collon said Sunday that Brown had movement in his arms and legs.]

[Asked if Brown's career was over, Collon said: "I guess you could make that supposition." Bobby Ross, the Detroit coach, had visited Brown in hospital. "Reggie was very happy that we won the game," Ross said. "It wasn't a long conversation."]

On Sunday, in the afterglow of their gritty victory, the Lions' players and coaches, awaiting news of Brown, found it difficult to transfer their thoughts from his injury to their victory.

Even Sanders' fourth-quarter performance of 112 yards rushing with the game on the line to reach 2,053 yards for the season, joining O. J. Simpson and Eric Dickerson as the only players in NFL history to top 2,000 yards, failed to prompt much celebration.

"I'm worried about Reggie Brown's family," said Sanders.

"I'm exhausted," said a Lions' receiver, Johnnie Morton, who sprinted the length of the field and up a tunnel beneath the Silverdome's end-zone stands, frantic for an ambulance that seemed too slow in arriving. "I was so scared, and they weren't moving. I grabbed one of the medical guys' bags and just tried to make them hurry.

"I couldn't stop crying," Morton continued. "Reggie wasn't moving, and I saw them cutting through his jersey, his pads and then beating on his chest to get him to breathe."

The Lions tied the score, 10-10, sparked by a 47-yard gain by Sanders on the final play of the third quarter. A few plays later Brown was hurt.

"It was just like a flashback to see him laying there," said a Lions' defensive lineman, Marc Spindler, who had witnessed a similar scene six years earlier when teammate Mike Utley was left paralyzed after trying to block Houston's David Rocker.

Spindler said he heard Collon say that Brown was not moving. "Panic set in on the whole sideline right away, and guys were yelling and screaming and then everyone just started praying," Spindler said.

As team physicians from the Lions and Jets began administering to Brown, players met in several groups on the field, dropping to their knees with arms draped around each other's shoulders.

After players prayed on the field, the Jets met on their sideline as the ambulance remained at midfield, coming together for another prayer, while the Lions gathered around an emotional Ross.

"It was hard, but I called the team together and said we had 11 minutes to play and we need to go on," said Ross. "It was so hard."

When play resumed, the Jets made progress against the Lions, advancing to the Detroit 9-yard line with the opportunity to regain the lead. Bill Parcells, the Jets coach, called for a halfback option pass.

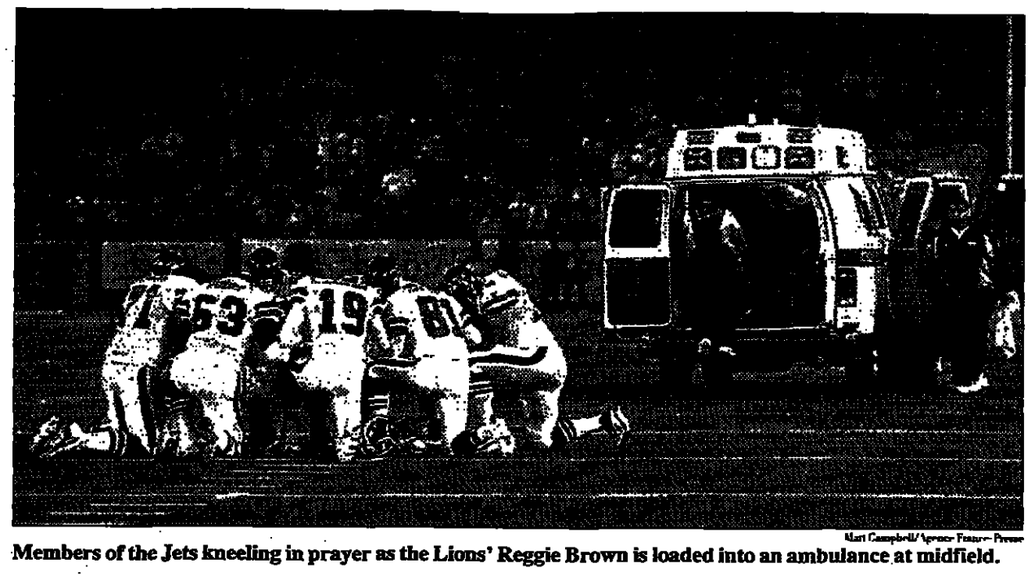
Leon Johnson, running out of room while nearing the sideline, tossed a pass into the end zone and into the waiting hands of the Lions' rookie cornerback, Bryant Westbrook.

Westbrook juggled the ball, and juggled it again while falling out of bounds, and then juggled it again. But the official also failed to grasp the play, ruling that Westbrook had made the interception although replays clearly showed he was out of bounds while still not in control of the ball.

Oh well, the argument for instant replay will come at the owners annual meetings in March, too late to save the Jets, who must take satisfaction in bouncing back from a 1-15 season a year ago to finish at 9-7.

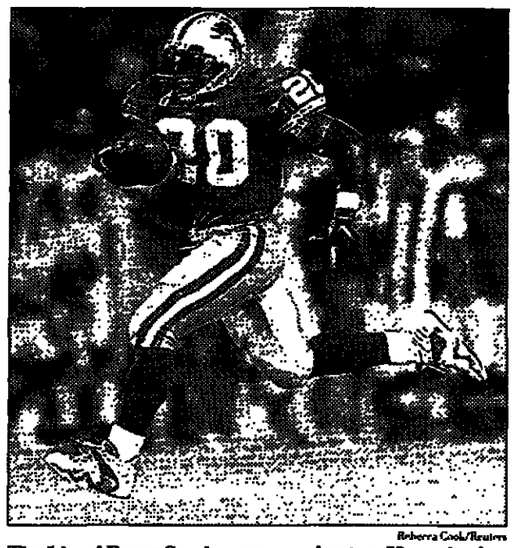
With 2:15 remaining, Sanders reached the 2,000-yard mark with a two-yard gain. He then busted free for 53 yards on the next play, finishing off the Jets and sending the crowd into a frenzy.

The Lions' victory eliminated both the Jets and the Washington Redskins from playoff contention. Detroit will head to Tampa Bay for a first-round playoff game against the Buccaneers on Sunday.



Mark Campbell/Agence France-Presse

Members of the Jets kneeling in prayer as the Lions' Reggie Brown is loaded into an ambulance at midfield.



Roberta Cook/Reuters

The Lions' Barry Sanders scampering to a 53-yard gain.

Vikings Rebound Into the Playoffs

The Associated Press

The Minnesota Vikings ended a five-game losing streak in time to clinch a playoff berth on the last weekend of the regular season.

The Vikings, 8-2 before their losing streak, beat Indianapolis, 38-29, on Sunday. Minnesota's highest score of the season was built on Randall Cunningham's four touchdown passes, three of them to Cris Carter.

NFL Roundup

In Dennis Green's six seasons as head coach the Vikings have reached the playoffs five times, but they have yet to win in the postseason under Green.

Cunningham, who will be the fifth quarterback to start a playoff game with Green as coach, threw three interceptions, but his teammates forced five turnovers from the Colts' backup quarterback, Kelly Holcomb, who played parts of the second and fourth quarters when Jim Harbaugh was hurt.

Broncos 38, Chargers 3 A week after one of his worst games, John Elway threw four touchdown passes for Denver. The victory gave the Broncos home advantage for the first round of the playoffs.

Oilers 16, Steelers 6 Tennessee ran for 156 yards, becoming the third team to exceed 100 yards rushing this season against Pittsburgh, the AFC Central champion, which has a bye next weekend.

Bengals 16, Ravens 14 Boomer Esiason threw two touchdown passes for the Bengals, who relegated the Ravens to last place in the American Football Conference Central.

Cardinals 29, Falcons 26 Jake Plummer threw a one-yard scoring pass to Larry Centers with five seconds left for the Cardinals, completing a fourth-quarter comeback from a 26-14 deficit.

Jaguars 20, Raiders 9 The Raiders concluded their worst season since going 1-13 in 1962, the year before Al Davis took charge.

Seahawks 38, 49ers 9 Warren Moon threw for 232 yards and four touchdowns, giving him 3,678 yards passing for the season and breaking Dave Krieg's team record of 3,671. San Francisco's Gary Anderson, in his 16th NFL season, made three field goals and has 385 in his career, breaking the record of 383 held by Nick Lowery.

In games reported in late editions Monday:

Redskins 35, Eagles 32 Darryl Pounds stripped the ball from Bobby Hoying, the Eagles quarterback, on a cornerback blitz and returned it for a touchdown. Then Darrell Green returned an interception 83 yards for a score as Washington took a 14-0 lead. But the victory was too late to get it into the playoffs.

Buccaneers 31, Bears 15 Tampa Bay gained the victory it needed to clinch its first home game in the playoffs since 1979. Karl Williams scored twice, once on a 61-yard punt return, and Warrick Dunn had 119 yards, including a team-record 76-yard run.

Giants 20, Cowboys 7 At Texas Stadium, quarterback Danny Kanell led New York to a 20-0 halftime lead. The Giants then rested its starters for next week's playoff game but still held on to win comfortably.

Chiefs 25, Saints 13 Elvis Grbac, who missed six games with a broken collarbone, warmed up for the playoffs by going 5-for-14 for 51 yards in cold, wet weather in Kansas City.

Hasek Erects a Garden Wall As Sabres Blank the Rangers

The Associated Press

Dominik Hasek shut out the New York Rangers to gain his first victory at Madison Square Garden.

Hasek made 33 saves as the Buffalo Sabres won, 2-0, on Sunday night. It was his fifth shutout in the last 16 games after failing to come up with one in the first 14. It was also the second straight shutout for Hasek, who stopped Montreal, 1-0, Friday night. He has gone 128 minutes 45 seconds without allowing a goal.

In the second period, the Sabres were outshot by 16-7, yet still managed to outscore the Rangers, 1-0, on a goal by Mike Peca.

That gave the Sabres a 2-0 lead, more than enough the way Hasek and the Sabres' defense were playing. The Sabres' penalty-killers stopped six power-play attempts by the Rangers.

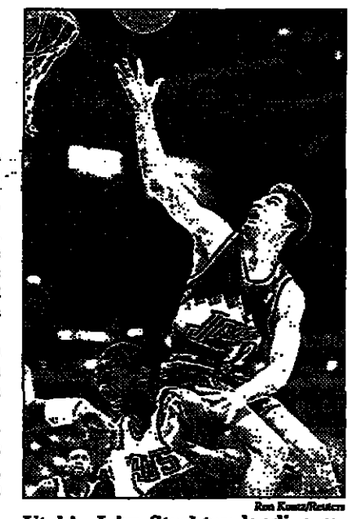
"It was a very hard-working game," said Lindy Ruff, the Buffalo coach. "You could see the desperation on the special teams, the penalty-killers were diving in front of stuff and diving to get the puck out. I think desperate was the word for our team."

Sharks 4, Mighty Ducks 2 John MacLean scored twice, and Jeff Friesen had three assists as San Jose won in Anaheim.

Murray Craven also scored and defenseman Marcus Ragnarsson got his first goal of the season on a power play, helping extend San Jose's unbeaten streak to seven games.

Teemu Selanne scored both of Anaheim's goals to increase his league-leading total to 28.

NHL Roundup



Ron Kuntz/Reuters

Utah's John Stockton landing on Cleveland's Wesley Person after a lay-up shot in the fourth quarter.

A Groggy Kemp Elbows Jazz Aside

The Associated Press

Shawn Kemp might recall this victory over Karl Malone as one of his sweetest, although he is going to have to watch the replay first.

Kemp had 24 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers over the Utah Jazz, 106-101, Sunday night, recovering from a near-knockout blow from Malone just in time to put away his old nemesis from the West.

Kemp was led to the locker room in a groggy, stumbling stupor after catching an elbow in the head from Malone as the power forwards fought for a rebound. He missed only a couple of minutes of play and returned to lead his new team to victory — but said he could not remember much of it.

"He got me somewhere good," said Kemp, who played eight years in Seattle and battled Malone's Jazz for Western Conference supremacy. "I'm still trying to figure out where. I didn't have it all together, that's for sure."

Malone had 24 points and 13 rebounds in a losing effort, despite nearly scoring a knockout on Kemp.

"I knew I hit him, but I didn't know what happened," said Malone, who then criticized the officials. "I guess there were a lot of people that didn't see a lot of things out there tonight."

NBA Roundup

Kemp and Malone were wrestling for a rebound in the fourth quarter when the Mailman's elbow connected hard with Kemp's face.

Like a boxer hit with a knockout punch, Kemp collapsed to the court and lay on his stomach writhing in pain. No foul was called.

Malone dunked with Kemp still on the ground to pull the Jazz within two points. The Cavs called a time-out, and a wobbly Kemp was led to the bench and then to the dressing room.

Cleveland led by 90-87 when Kemp returned. He and Malone traded jumpers over each other. Then Malone missed with Kemp guarding him.

Kemp was fouled at the other end and made both free throws to give the Cavs a 98-93 lead with 43 seconds remaining.

Celtics 99, Clippers 77 Antoine Walker scored 23 points, including a key 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter, as the Boston Celtics improved to .500 for the first time in two years.

Walker's 3-pointer at the third-quarter buzzer gave Boston a 66-64 lead and triggered a 32-10 run that broke the game open. The Clippers scored only 13 points in the final quarter.

Walker also grabbed 15 rebounds, but shot only 8-of-25 from the field.

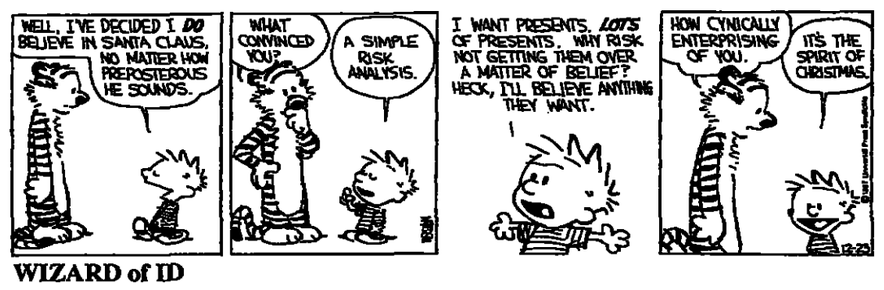
Grizzlies 88, Trail Blazers 86 Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 28 points and 14 rebounds as Vancouver snapped a three-game losing streak.

Abdur-Rahim went 2-for-10 from the field in the first half, but found the range in the second half, making 7 of 10.

DENNIS THE MENACE

PEANUTS

CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD

WIZARD of ID

BEETLE BAILEY

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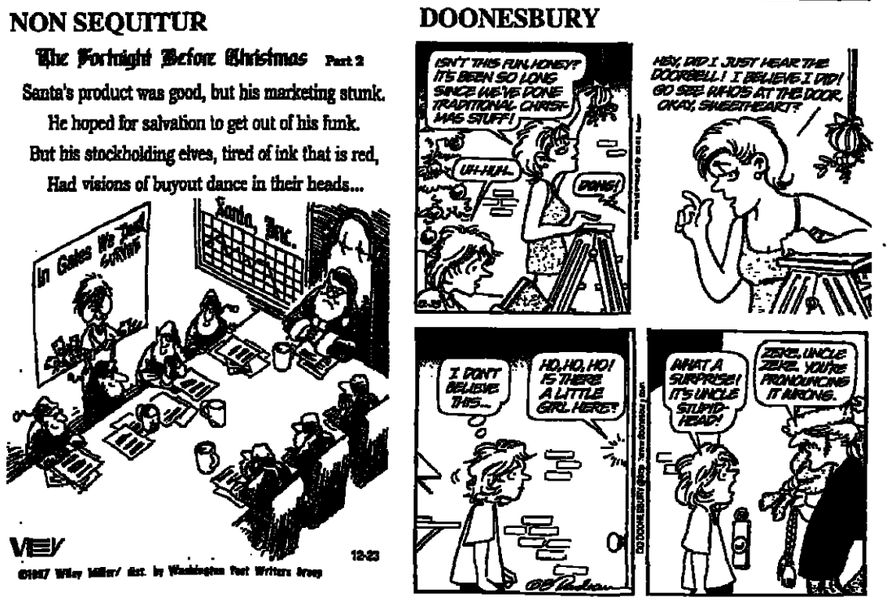

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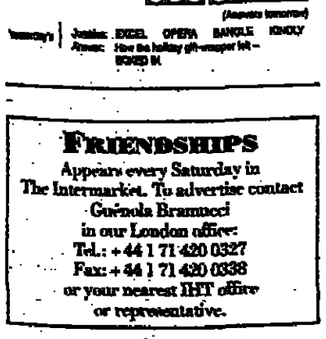

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ART BUCHWALD

The Santa Hearings

WASHINGTON — If Santa Claus doesn't show up at your house on Christmas morning, it won't be his fault. He hasn't been confirmed by the Senate Ad Hoc Holiday Committee.

Although the nomination was made several years ago, the chairman has held Claus hostage to bills he wanted passed in Congress.

Buchwald

Dick Zinger, who's the leader of the "Stop Santa" movement, said, "We will fight the Santa nomination with our last breath. We want to know where he stands on gun control, abortion and prayer in school — and also where he tilts on global warming."

"Doesn't the president have the right to name his own Santa Claus?"

"Yes, and we have the right to consent to the nomination. The Santa up for the job is known as a giveaway bleeding heart who will go over budget as soon as he takes office."

"Can't the president appoint one while Congress is in recess?"

"He'd better not try it. The country will be up in arms. If he attempts to climb down someone's chimney without Senate approval, we'll call out the Charlton Heston SWAT team."

"I always thought the position of the country's Santa laureate was nonpartisan."

"It was until the president appointed Bill Lann Lee to lead the Justice Department's civil rights division. Then it was decided we wouldn't pass on anyone. The anti-Santa people mean business."

I called Santa on his cellular phone.

"Does it bother you that you haven't been confirmed by the Senate?" I asked him.

"I haven't given it much thought. The job has to be done, and if the Republicans refuse to confirm me they are committing political suicide."

□

"Does that mean the Republicans will get fewer presents than the Democrats?"

"It has nothing to do with party. The only legal question is if a person has been naughty or nice."

"How do you know?"

"One of my reindeer is a special prosecutor."

"Will most of the gifts you distribute be paid for with hard money or soft?"

"With soft money. I can give only a minimal amount of gifts with hard money — but there is no restriction on how much I can hand out for educational purposes."

"You're a very generous person."

"Why do you think the president appointed me Santa Claus?"

'Titanic' Opens Big

Washington Post Service

LOS ANGELES — "Titanic," the film epic that once looked as if it might sink under the cost of its production, survived its opening weekend but still has a long way to go before turning a profit.

Supported by a vast advertising campaign, good reviews and wide media coverage, the movie, which cost about $200 million, took in $27.6 million at the domestic box office over the weekend according to Exhibitor Relations, which tracks industry earnings.

Staying Put: Arts Are Flourishing in Ireland

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — For most of this century it was easier to find Irish artists proclaiming their Irishness in London, Paris and New York than in Dublin. Quite simply, exile was preferable to the poverty, isolation, censorship and self-doubt prevailing at home.

No longer. Today, Irish culture is flourishing as never before; impressive new talent is flowering in writing, movies, theater, music, art — and now it is happening *in* Ireland. This cultural renaissance is more than a function of the irrepressible creative gifts of the Irish. It has come about because the country as a whole has experienced a metamorphosis.

In barely a decade, the old Ireland that Wilde, Joyce and Beckett were so eager to flee has been replaced by a prosperous Ireland, brimming with optimism and self-confidence, in which artists have pride of place.

"Ireland in the 1970s bears very little resemblance to Ireland today," said Sebastian Barry, 42, one of several playwrights who has made his name in the 1990s. "It used to be so depressing. Not oppressive like Eastern Europe, just horribly unimpressive. It's almost a new nationality now."

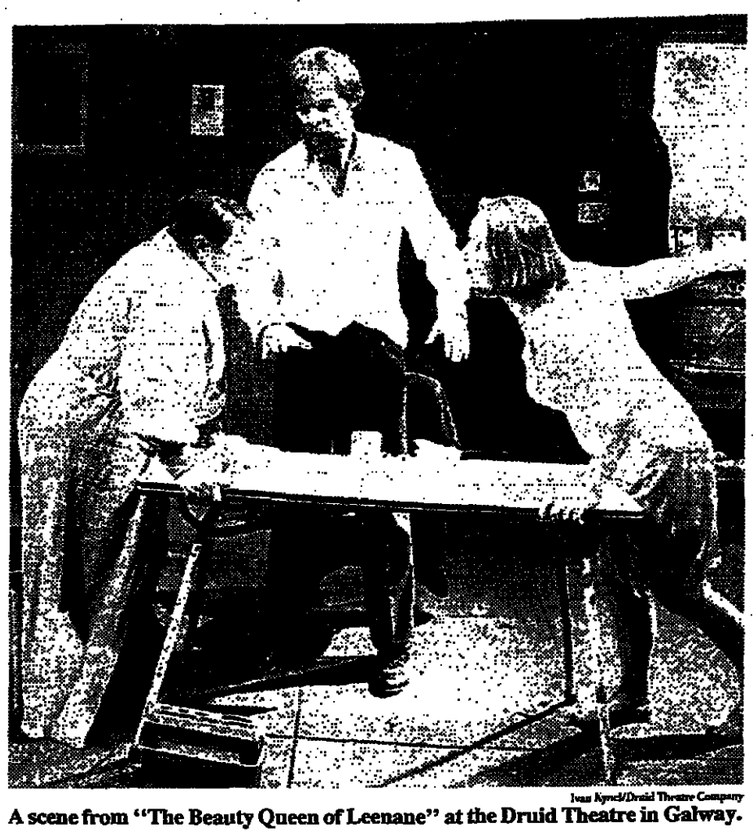
For Irish artists, the change has brought an extraordinary sense of liberation — from the need to emigrate or the certainty of penury if they stayed home; from the shadow of the Roman Catholic Church and old-fashioned nationalism; from the straitjacket of the past.

Today, they feel free to express themselves. They are eager to be heard. And they are being rewarded with growing recognition abroad.

"If you surround huge areas of expression with silence for so long and then a society suddenly opens up," explained Colm Toibin, 42, one of several newly successful novelists, "a lot of people are going to start writing clearly and dramatically. That's what has happened here. When people talk of the death of the novel, I laugh. In Ireland, it's reaching a heroic phase, like in Britain and France 150 years ago."

Yet if this sudden change is celebrated, it has also set many Irish artists brooding over its significance, uncertain if they recognize Ireland in its new attire, confused by the clash of old and new identities. What does it mean to be Irish in an Ireland that is revising its perception of itself and the world? If the country buries its past, what will replace it? Can the Irish become modern without becoming less Irish?

The search for answers runs through much creative activity here today. New Irish novelists, playwrights, moviemakers and visual artists cannot be slotted into a single category because their concerns are so varied. Yet many share an obsessive need to look at Ireland and the Irish through fresh eyes, to explore subjects that were long taboo, to strip "Irishness" of its nationalistic and romantic myths and see what is left.


Ivan Kyncl/Druid Theatre Company
A scene from "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" at the Druid Theatre in Galway.

Plays and movies are daring to examine the civil war that followed Irish self-rule in the 1920s and the "troubles" that have convulsed Northern Ireland for most of the last 25 years. Artists are addressing such sensitive topics as the traditional power of the Catholic Church and the oppression of the Irish woman.

But they are not returning to the past. Rather, the past is being dragged into the present to be dissected with today's instruments — say, the drama of movies, the humor of plays or the symbolism of visual art.

The social upheaval of the last 10 years also poses a challenge to artists. Gone is the old rural Ireland of "cottage, donkey and church," as one painter put it. Today, a newly urbanized country is being bombarded by American popular culture and has become transfixed by money. It is a society where drugs, violence and corruption have taken root. This may provide artists with rich raw material, but it is also disquieting. Where is it all leading?

For all the theatricality of its grand entrance, new Ireland has been in the making since 1973 when the country joined the European Community. As the community's poorest member, one that had changed little in generations, the Republic of Ireland began to receive massive aid to modernize its roads, airports and communications. By the mid-1980s, foreign investment was pouring in, attracted by cheap labor and tax incentives. By the early 1990s, Ireland could boast Europe's fastest-growing economy, its per-capita income even exceeding Britain's.

And more than the economy was changing. Increased spending on schools brought a marked rise in educational standards, while depopulation of the countryside accelerated. Meanwhile, the power of the Catholic Church was crumbling, family size was shrinking and divorce was finally legalized. The old political establishment, in power since the 1930s, was losing its hold on the country. Even traditional hostility toward Britain began to wane.

"In the 1970s, we still had an inferiority complex toward the English," explained Michael Colgan, the director of the Gate Theatre in Dublin, "and we measured our Irishness by how much we hated them. But in the 1980s, a series of 'accidents,' like winning the Eurovision song contest and beating the English at soccer and U2 being on the cover of Time allowed us to expand our chests. Ireland began to accept its identity, to learn about itself, to discover itself."

A coherent arts policy also emerged under Prime Minister Charles Haughey between 1987 and 1992. Irish and foreign creators were already enjoying tax-free status in Ireland and an Arts Council had been in place since 1973. But Haughey created the Museum of Modern Art and the National Museum, encouraged private investment in movies through tax breaks, multiplied the Arts Council's budget and founded an artist's academy called Aosdana ("the wise people" in Gaelic), its 150 members each receiving a $10,000 annual stipend.

The arts world and its hangers-on were even given their own Left Bank when Dublin's rundown Temple Bar district was renovated. Today it is crowded with studios, art galleries, movie production offices, restaurants and pubs galore. The artists of the '90s are being pampered like princes by a succession of governments that see the arts boom as proof of their own success.

BOOKS

Christmas Tidings and Warm Feelings, With Marketing

By Doreen Carvajal
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — This is the season when the novels of Richard Paul Evans are as popular as shiny ornaments, and the tireless former advertising executive is spreading more good tidings than a shopping mall Santa.

At 35 — slender, fresh-faced and unpretentious — the Utah native is a rather unlikely Mr. Yuletide. But Evans, by dint of his own promotional and storytelling skills, has come to dominate a vast market for contemporary Christmas fiction with carefully packaged and priced holiday melodramas that have sold millions on the strength of wet-handkerchief sentiments of mourning and healing.

Two of the books in his Noel trilogy — "The Christmas Box" and "The Letter" — are relentlessly climbing the New York Times best-seller list. With almost 3.5 million copies in print, success has also spun off nearly a dozen Christmas clones right down to the profiles of some authors who mirror Evans: young Mormon writers from Salt Lake City with a reverential view of the family. "It's a mission," Evans said of his 31-city book tour to promote his books. "The books really do affect people and they change lives. I really do want to change the world. People come to me sometimes and I think, man, do you need this book."

Maxine Hicks/The New York Times
Richard Paul Evans during his book-signing tour.

"The Christmas Box" — the first in the initially self-published series — is a story of a preoccupied young businessman (also named Richard) who moves his family into a Victorian mansion to help care for an elderly widow. In the attic, he discovers a mysterious box that leads to revelations about the widow's past and her loss of a 3-year-old daughter, Andrea.

Some critics mourn the high teardrops-per-page ratio or the indulgent use of terms like "ardent" and "gasp." The story is a 1990s update of "A Christmas Carol," featuring a man who puts his business activities above everything else, according to Stephen Nissenbaum, a professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, who notes that Ebenezer Scrooge came to care about larger social problems while this narrator realizes his young daughter needs more quality time.

Yet Evans's words have provided some measure of comfort to grieving parents who have buried their children, prompting disparate families in Nevada and New Jersey, Idaho and Wyoming to organize angel monuments similar to a fictional statue that shadows the grave of the child, Andrea.

Emotion may be what touches his readers, but Evans makes sure to reach out. In the publishing industry, he is considered a consummate master of marketing. From a Salt Lake City office, he runs an elaborate network — independent of his publisher, Simon & Schuster — simply to promote his books.

Two angels, holding lanterns, guard the entrance to the brick Victorian mansion that is headquarters for Richard Paul Evans Publishing. The work force of five, including Evans, has divided into the same sorts of roles as in a professional political campaign. It was in such campaigns that Evans got his advertising and marketing experience.

Like any savvy pol, he maintains a computer data base, with the names and addresses of more than 4,000 readers who have corresponded with him. Postcards are sent to fans, alerting them to new titles.

Callers are referred by recording to one employee who handles scheduling, another who handles promotions and a receptionist who doubles as a coordinator of special events. A fourth employee, Evans's brother, Barry, is in charge of other office matters and manages a company spin-off, Arcadia, that is developing a Utah resort.

In addition, there is a secretary who assists Evans's parents, David and June, with running a charity from their Salt Lake home called, The Christmas Box Foundation, which is raising money to create a shelter for children who are abused or need temporary housing.

On Dec. 6, the fictional date of Andrea's death, the publishing firm organizes a candlelight service for grieving parents at a cemetery. It gets heavy television and newspaper coverage.

"There's a lot of pathos," said Evan Twede, Evans's friend and former partner in a political advertising firm. "And that obviously sells to a story editor. So where Rick goes, he's creating stories and you have all these things working for him. But if it's a marketing strategy, it's completely inadvertent. He's doing this out of the goodness of his heart. He doesn't need the money and he's on a mission to heal people."

Even the story of Evans's meteoric rise in publishing has become fodder for another warm Christmas parable recounted by the author in sincere, folksy tones punctuated by the plaintive notes of a piano.

His publishing company produced a free two-hour radio program this year about the story behind the "The Christmas Box," which they distributed along with free books to 896 radio stations that broadcast the special around Thanksgiving.

Between commercial breaks, Evans describes a tale of The Little Book That Could.

In 1992, during a lull after the end of a political campaign, he said he wrote a slim novella for his two daughters about a busy father who comes to appreciate the fleeting preciousness of childhood, vowing to devote more time to his daughter.

The books were distributed as Christmas presents to his six brothers and one sister. Demand grew from 20 books to 20,000. In 1995, what had been a self-published book was the object of a fiercely contested auction that ended in a $4.25 million contract with Simon & Schuster.

What Evans does not talk about during the radio program is the complex impact of sudden success on his circle of family and friends.

In his special program distributed to radio stations, Evans recalls that even his young daughter, Jenna, pointed out that he seemed to be ignoring the message of his original book as he was leaving for a four-week book tour: "Why did you write a story about spending more time with your children and now you're leaving?" she asked him.

Since then, he said he had tried to take his own message to heart, taking his wife and three daughters on some of his trips.

As Dec. 25 approaches, it is beginning to feel a lot like the end of a long, frenetic campaign.

"You know what it's like when the tour ends," Evans said. "There's a transition team. The urgency is gone. You take longer lunches."

PEOPLE

AN idea born of watching Bosnian war scenes on television became reality as the tenor **Luciano Pavarotti** and several friends came to Mostar to open a music school for which they raised $5.8 million. The tenor delivered a message to the children of Bosnia: "You saw the horror of the war. Try to maintain peace when you grow up." Pavarotti and his friends dipped their hands in green, red and blue paint and pressed them against a wall in the school's concert hall, then signed their names next to the handprints as children's choruses from the region sang. Surrounding the renovated school in the Muslim eastern sector of Mostar are scars of the bitter fighting between ethnic Croats and Muslims. The Luciano Pavarotti Music Center will offer music education and music therapy for Bosnian children.

Adam Butler/Agence France-Presse
Pavarotti, with paint-covered hand, at Mostar school.

□

In Fiorano, Italy, the former Formula One world champion **Michael Schumacher** got just what he wanted from his team for Christmas — a little red 30-year-old Fiat 500 — once the average Italian's basic transportation. It is a far cry from the Ferraris he usually powers around racing circuits, but Schumacher was happy. "This was my first car and I always wanted to have another," he said at a squad Christmas party, then he leaped behind the wheel and did a couple of laps on Ferrari's test track. "It's great," he said.

□

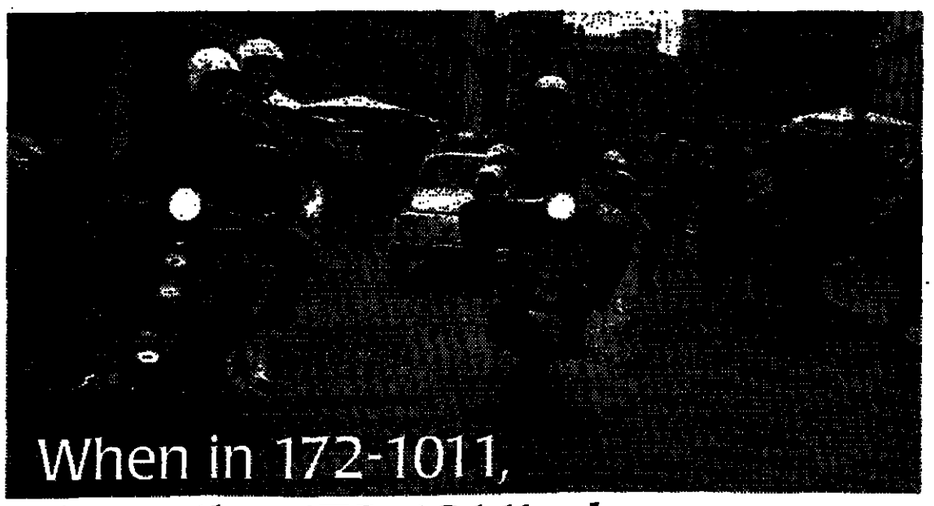
When **Jean-Pierre Goyenvalle** came to Washington in 1960, dining in the capital meant mainly fish houses and steak joints. Then **John F. Kennedy** was elected and Goyenvalle, then chef at the Rive Gauche in Georgetown, found he was in the right place at the right time. Almost 38 years and two restaurants later, French cuisine has lost out to other styles — Mediterranean, Italian and fusion. So Goyenvalle, 60, is hanging up his toque, at least for now. He has closed Le Lion d'Or, which he opened in 1976 as a successor to the smaller Jean-Pierre, to which he moved from Rive Gauche in 1971. His restaurants were places where politicians, lawyers and lobbyists went to see and be seen, so Goyenvalle's retirement marks, in a way, the end of an era. Limits on expense-account dining and changing drinking habits did not help. "It's not easy to make a living on people eating salads and drinking Perrier," said Goyenvalle.

□

Since the death of **Diana, Princess of Wales**, the names of her two sons, **William** and **Harry**, have boomed in popularity. After checking nearly 4,000 birth notices in its pages this year, The Times on Monday said the name William had doubled in frequency in September compared with any other month before Diana's death, while the choice of Harry had jumped by a third. Charles was down by the same amount, the paper said, reflecting a public backlash against **Prince Charles** immediately after his former wife's death.

□

Spain's traditional Christmas lottery gave out $1.2 billion Monday, including a $270 million grand prize known as El Gordo (The Fat One). Schoolchildren chimed out the winning numbers of the jackpot that will be shared by holders of a ticket series sold in Granada, where winners celebrated in the streets, waving tickets with the winning number: 43728. **Francisco Gamarra's** present of lottery tickets to the staff at his hairdressing salon suddenly turned from a goodwill gesture into a $124,000 Christmas bonus.



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United Kingdom▲	0500-89-0011
	0800-89-0011
MIDDLE EAST	
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